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Gulf Conflict

Iraqi aircraft scored an "accurate and effective" hit on a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 25 September, Iraq announced in a military statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi planes had launched further strikes inside Iran the previous day, attacking power stations at Reza Shah Dam and at Sadd-e Dez, according to a communique transmitted by INA. IRNA confirmed that two "industrial units" in Khuzestan were damaged by Iraqi raids. The agency also noted that Iranian artillery continued to bombard Iraqi towns in retaliation for an Iraqi air attack 23 September in which seven people were killed or wounded. An Iraqi communique carried by Baghdad radio stated that 12 more Iraqi civilians were killed in the bombardment of Basra.

In another development, Manama shipping sources cited by AFP disclosed that a small Panamanian research ship was sunk by a mine in the Gulf 22 September, the morning after the U.S. attack on an Iranian minelaying vessel. The *Marissa-1* was hit in the same area where the U.S.-flagged supertanker *Bridgeton* hit a mine 24 July. Four crew members are still missing, AFP said, and a related Radio Monte Carlo report stated that the four were killed. However, an Iranian military spokesman cited by Tehran radio cast doubt on the accuracy of these reports in light of the fact that "this claimed incident was announced over 50 hours later." The delay in publicizing the sinking of the *Marissa-1* wiped out any chance of gathering evidence to prove it was sunk by a mine, the spokesman contended, adding that the incident is linked with the U.S. attack on the *Iran Ajr* and is part of a "suspicious move" by the United States in the Gulf.

Kuwaiti Criticism of Soviets—The Soviet call for the replacement of foreign fleets in the Gulf by a UN force was criticized by the Kuwaiti paper *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm*, which stressed that such a move would only prolong the conflict in the Gulf, KUNA reported. In what KUNA described as a "clear reference" to the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, the paper said that those who are "genuine in their proposals and peace plans" should withdraw from nearby territory they "entered and militarized" against the will of its people. In Moscow, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by TASS stated that Kuwaiti press reports about Soviet-Iranian talks on the sale of arms to Iran are "totally unfounded fabrications." The USSR does not practice "double diplomacy" and has no reason to change its stand on the war, he asserted.

Inter-Arab Affairs: Syrian-Jordanian Talks

King Husayn returned to Jordan after a brief working visit to Syria during which he held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad in Latakia, Amman television reported. The two leaders discussed Arab and international developments, issues of common interest, and ways to achieve Arab solidarity. Radio Monte Carlo linked their talks with the inter-Arab dispute over the agenda for the upcoming Arab summit conference, disclosing that Syria has threatened to boycott the summit unless the agenda is amended. Saudi King Fahd's recent assertion that the summit should give special attention to the Palestine and Lebanon issues was received with "great satisfaction" in Syria, the radio noted.

Israel

Killing of IDF Soldier—A resident of Janin was arrested in connection with the murder of an IDF reserve soldier at Megiddo Junction 24 September, Jerusalem radio announced. The suspect was found in possession of the personal weapon of the victim, who was stabbed to death.

Lebanon Clash—Jerusalem radio reported that an IDF soldier was wounded and two Hizballah "terrorists" were killed in a clash northeast of Bint Jubayl, in southern Lebanon.

Libya-Chad Conflict

The OAU committee dealing with the territorial dispute over the Aozou Strip issued a communique at the end of its meeting in Lusaka in which it announced a timetable for the two sides to present their views, BBC World Service radio reported. The timetable envisages a series of meetings culminating in a heads of state summit in Senegal next January. The communique also called for the consolidation of the de facto cease-fire and urged both countries to avoid actions that could reignite armed conflict, AFP noted.

Sudan

Political Talks—The Khartoum paper *Al-Siyasah* disclosed that Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met with the Democratic Unionist Party leader 23 September to finalize the agreement that will lead to the announcement of a new government, SUNA reported.

Cultural Centers Closure—An official source cited by *Al-Ayyam* stated that the government has decided to close all cultural centers operated by foreign embassies, SUNA noted. The decision was taken "for security reasons related to some foreign embassies' activities which do not conform with diplomatic norms and traditions," the source revealed.

Garang Peace Call—Southern rebel leader Colonel John Garang told journalists in Nairobi that he wants a peaceful solution of the civil war and he said the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) is ready to hold talks with the Sudanese Government in any of the countries adjoining Sudan, KNA reported. Garang praised Kenya for hosting the recent talks between the SPLM and other southern Sudanese political parties, but he added that Kenya's provision of facilities "did not mean support to my movement." In another development regarding Kenya's attitude toward the SPLM,

SUNA reported that a Kenyan official stressed his country's commitment to noninterference in Sudan's internal affairs. The Kenyan stand was in response to a Sudanese request for clarifications of a recent statement by the Kenyan education minister expressing willingness to give assistance to Garang's movement.

Chad

OAU Wants Cease-Fire With Libya Continued

AB241311 Paris AFP in English 1213 GMT 24 Sep 87

[By Louis-Marie Tattevin]

[Text] Lusaka, Sep 24 (AFP)—The de facto ceasefire between Chad and Libya, in force since September 11, should be maintained and consolidated, an ad hoc committee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) dealing with their 14-year territorial dispute urged in a communique issued here Thursday. [Words indistinct] both countries to avoid any actions which could reignite their armed confrontation, such as overflights, troop concentrations at the border, incursions, recruitment of foreign forces, and importing foreign arms.

Those appeals for moderation were all the committee managed to come up with, 10 years after its formation to mediate in the conflict between the Saharan neighbours over the Aozou Strip, where Libyan troops installed themselves in 1973. A Nigerian suggestion that an OAU observer team be posted there was not even mentioned in the final communique.

The committee chaired by President Omar Bongo of Gabon heard Chadian President Hissein Habre repeat his condemnations of Libyan "expansionism", and insist that the Strip was Chad's according to the frontiers inherited at independence. The committee's communique made a point of hailing the presence of a Libyan delegation—Mr Bongo said when opening the meeting that it meant "the end of the empty chair policy" previously practised by Libya - but regretted Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had failed to attend in person, sending Foreign Minister Jadallah Azzuz al-Talhi instead.

The committee voiced concern over the risks of the dispute becoming "internationalised", though it made no specific mention of French and U.S. military support for Chad nor of the arrival of several hundred Palestinians and Druze from Lebanon to fight on the Libyan side.

The Chadians insisted the French troops stationed in Chad were there under a bilateral treaty, while Mr al-Talhi said after the meeting that Libya was "not recruiting forces from anywhere. The forces present are known to all".

He added that "Aozou is Libyan territory", but was reluctant to say what frontier demarcation the claim was based on.

The Chadians said the former colonial powers France, Britain, and Italy, had confirmed the territory belonged historically to Chad.

The OAU itself regards boundaries obtaining at independence as sacrosanct and the committee asked both parties to provide all the relevant documents by the end of next month to a sub-committee of legal experts and cartographers meeting in the Gabonese capital Libreville.

The committee's foreign ministers (Gabon, Senegal, Cameroon, Mozambique, Nigeria, Algeria) are to meet there on January 7, and a heads of state session has been scheduled for Dakar, Senegal, in the first fortnight of January.

Peace, Libyan Lusaka Intentions Viewed

AB240759 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] President El Hadj Hissein Habre departed Ndjamena early this morning for Lusaka, Zambia, where all members of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chadian-Libyan border dispute began their meeting today. The Chadian head of state is participating in the meeting. Cestene Ngani reports:

Despite the death of his father, the head of state has been eager to travel to Lusaka to attend the meeting of the OAU ad hoc committee. But one question immediately arises: What can we expect from this meeting? Some pessimists will respond negatively right away. As far as ending the conflict is concerned, they are undoubtedly correct. But on the diplomatic front the stakes are huge for Chad. First, this move by the head of state shows that this issue is his major concern. Once more he displays his burning desire to see this war come to an end, as well as his belief in the OAU and its principles. This is on the Chadian side.

On the other side, the arrogant Tripoli regime continues to show its disdain for the OAU and African leaders. It ridiculed the ministerial delegation of the OAU ad hoc committee led by OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou when this delegation traveled to Tripoli a few months ago. Furthermore, like Ulysses shying away from the voices of the Sirens, Al-Qadhdhafi refuses to travel to Lusaka and instead sends a small-fry who is unable to discuss the full details of this conflict. We are here speaking of Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah Azzuz al-Talhi, a poor diplomat, who will only voice support for Libyan misdeeds as his master Al-Qadhdhafi has forced him to do thoroughly since it was announced that a meeting on the Chadian-Libyan border dispute was to occur in Lusaka. Being aware that his spokesman in Lusaka cannot make any decision concerning this conflict, Al-Qadhdhafi has sent Jadallah to create confusion at the meeting. Anything else would have surprised chanceries the world over.

Besides, Al-Qadhdhafi, who is fearful that a coup may take place at any time and thus refuses to go to Lusaka, also pushes his cynicism and [words indistinct] a bunch of mercenaries recruited in Lebanon. The war will thus continue. In doing so, Al-Qadhdhafi shows that his Army and his Islamic legion are no more than a bunch of incompetent fighters and that this war has a true racial dimension: Arabs against black Africans.

In the military field, the Druze and other Syrians and Palestinians whom Al-Qadhdhafi recruited at a high price to fill the FANT-caused shortage of fighters in his

Army are getting ready to attack. In the near future, it will be Walid Junblatt's turn to start searching for his men as some Eastern European countries are presently doing. But it will be too late.

In the diplomatic field, where everything is taking place in Lusaka, Al-Qadhdhafi is absent. Hissein [Habre] has traveled there. Since one of the parties involved is represented in a cowardly fashion, how can we expect a frank dialogue that could result in the desired outcome? In any case, the recruiting of Red or Arab mercenaries and Al-Qadhdhafi's refusal to go to Lusaka will undoubtedly influence the perception black African leaders and Chad's friends have so far had of the conflict pitting Ndjamena against Tripoli and particulary perceptions of Al-Qadhdhafi's diabolical aims. They will not only be convinced of Chad's openness to any initiative for a peaceful settlement but will also accept the reality that Chad must, from now on, by itself face the combined actions of mercenaries (?from) some Arab regimes.

Returning Minister on Talks

AB242126 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] El Hadj Hissein Habre, the president of the Republic, returned to Ndjamena this afternoon from Lusaka where he had participated in the deliberations of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya conflict. The president of the Republic was met on arrival by his close associates and the chairman of the National Consultative Council. The minister of foreign affairs, who formed part of the presidential delegation, discussed the Lusaka meeting. Here is Gouara Lassou as interviewed by Issa Maitoubam:

[Begin recording] [Lassou] The Chadian delegation was headed by Comrade El Hadj Hissein Habre, the president of the Republic. The Lusaka meeting was a good one. As expected, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi did not attend, instead sending a minister [words indistinct]. The two sides were asked to submit documents to assist the ad hoc committee in its work. As usual, the Chadian side submitted all the necessary documentation but the Libyans did not submit anything to demonstrate or support their claims to our country's northern section. The ad hoc committee, charged with finding a solution to the conflict, once again granted a delay to Libya. Thus, a date was set by which Libya should submit documents that will enable the experts to deliberate the issue. A meeting of experts is scheduled to be held from 30 October to 11 November. This will be followed by a ministerial meeting of the ad hoc committee in Libreville on (?7 January) [1988] and then a summit meeting of heads of state. Once again, Libya has flouted OAU decisions since during the last OAU meeting a resolution raised the level of the committee to that of heads of state. Libya did not find it important to attend the Lusaka meeting.

[Maitoubam] How then do you explain Al-Qadhdhafi's absence from Lusaka?

[Lassou] This was simply done out of bad faith. This action does not surprise us Chadians [words indistinct]

[Maitoubam] Do you have faith in the OAU ad hoc committee? Do you believe that this committee can help solve this Chad-Libya conflict?

[Lassou] Chad is a founding member of the OAU. Chad has faith in the OAU and it hopes that the OAU will help solve this problem. As a member of the OAU, we believe in our organization. [end recording]

Egypt

SANA Cites Paper on Arrest of UN Officials

JN241947 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1825 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Beirut, 24 Sep (SANA)—The Egyptian regime's security forces carried out a disgraceful act last Wednesday when they arrested five Arab UN employees working in the UNESCO regional office in Cairo. In a dispatch from Cairo, the Beirut-based *Al-Safir* said in today's issue that the arrested UN employees hold Syrian, Jordanian, and Tunisian citizenship. Two Egyptian officers with the rank of major and colonel were also arrested. The five employees were arrested on the pretext of their affiliation with the Egypt's Revolution Organization [Tanzim Thawrah Misr], which is held responsible for assassination operations against a number of U.S. and Israeli diplomats in Cairo during the last 2 years.

The dispatch says that the Egyptian regime's security forces stormed the private residence of a Syrian, who is an employee of the UNESCO regional office in Cairo, at dawn last Wednesday. Several Arab friends, who are also diplomats, and two officers in the Egyptian Army were present with him. The Egyptian security men opened fire without warning, broke the gate, and stormed the residence. This prompted the diplomats to exchange fire with the security men, using their personal weapons. The diplomats believed that the attackers were trying to rob the Syrian diplomat's residence. As a result of the exchange of fire, three security men were wounded and the diplomats were hit by splinters.

The five Arab diplomats and the two Egyptian officers remained in custody for 5 days. The Egyptian regime's Foreign Ministry realized the situation and released them. Two of them are still hospitalized. The five Arab diplomats decided to file a damage suit against the Egyptian regime which had harmed them, although they are UN employees.

Al-Ahram, the organ of the Egyptian regime, 3 days ago reported to the Egyptians that the regime's security forces had stopped the Egypt's Revolution Organization. However, *Al-Ahram* gave no further details on the pretext of the ban imposed by the investigators.

'Official' Source on Debt Rescheduling Talks

NC251144 Cairo MENA in English 1050 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 25 (MENA)—An official economic source today underlined that there are no rpt no differences between Egypt and the creditor countries in the negotiations currently being held to reschedule the Egyptian debts. The source said that these negotiations will be concluded before the end of this year.

In a statement to MENA, the source said that the Egyptian Government is currently studying draft agreements presented by Britain, West Germany and Spain to reschedule the debts Egypt owes them.

Concluding, the source underlined that these negotiations are held in the light of the bases laid down by Egypt and also in the light of coordination among the various organs with the debt issue. Egypt and France had reached early this month an agreement on resheduling the Egyptian debts to France.

NDP Secretary General on Party Affairs

JN162106 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 15 Sep 87 p 17

[Part one of an interview with Dr Yusuf Wali, NDP secretary general, deputy prime minister, and agriculture minister, by Sawsan Abu Husayn in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu Husayn] It is being reiterated that comprehensive changes are anticipated in the ruling NDP in Egypt. Why will these changes take place and on what basis will the new leaders be chosen?

[Wali] The NDP's march has proven that the party is intent on maintaining its leaders in various positions and on all levels. However, new leaders will be selected in a gradual, quiet, and natural manner. They will be chosen from among those who are proven to be prominent in the partisan movement and in dealing with the people's affairs with enlightenment and efficacy.

[Abu Husayn] Some NDP members say that the main purpose of the changes is to get rid of those members who opposed the government and criticized some of its actions and who called for abolishing the emergency and electoral laws.

[Wali] We are a democratic party. Our congresses and meetings bear witness to that. Self-criticism within the party is essential to bolster our stands toward national affairs. What is significant is the final abidance by the resolutions and instructions adopted by the party. What is worth noting is that several party members display a high degree of commitment to the party and support the opinion of the majority despite differences with it. This was exactly the case during the recent elections. Many members whose names were no longer on the party lists supported their new colleagues with complete self-denial. Their efforts have sometimes even surpassed those of the candidates themselves.

[Abu Husayn] It is also being repeated that differences exist between you and People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub and that these differences are like a time bomb whose explosion may bring down a large number of party leaders.

[Wali] Talk about differences among NDP leaders is wishful thinking by those reiterating it. As I have repeatedly said, the lack of logic in such talk reveals the obvious contradiction in it. Today's allies are yesterday's adversaries and so forth.

[Abu Husayn] It is reported that there will be a Cabinet reshuffle in October and that you are nominated to preside over the new government. How true are such reports?

[Wali] We would have a new Cabinet every week if we believed such reports.

[Abu Husayn] Is it true that the implementation of the second 5-year plan has been postponed until October due to lack of appropriations?

[Wali] This is absolutely untrue. The projects of the plan are being implemented and both budgets and appropriations were given to the units of implementation in record time this year.

[Abu Husayn] What will relations be like between the ruling party and the new opposition forces represented by the Muslim Brotherhood group in the People's Assembly?

[Wali] The opposition in the People's Assembly is represented by the Al-Wafd and Labor parties and some independent voices. We in the NDP appreciate the opposition's role in our democratic life, especially in the parliament whose members represent the masses of the Egyptian people. It is the right and duty of the opposition to freely express their opinions about issues of national action in a manner which benefits their nation and country. Our people's interests are the goal of everyone. Our democratic option is the best means of achieving our national aims and objectives. We and our brothers in the opposition, regardless of affiliation, travel the same road. We participate in responsibilities. We are all in the same boat. We agree and differ within those limitations. [Passage omitted]

[Abu Husayn] Some call for forming a coalition government in which all Egyptian parties are represented and which agrees to a national program for solving Egypt's problems. What do you think?

[Wali] I believe—you may agree with me—that reasons for establishing a coalition movement are currently nonexistent in our country. The [5-year] plan is a national program after the approval of the People's Assembly. It is essential that all the Egyptian people participate in its implementation. This is because it is the plan of Egypt and not of the NDP alone. I believe that the participation of the opposition parties in opinions and action does not depend on their participation in the government.

[Abu Husayn] Some consider the result achieved by the Muslim Brotherhood group in the People's Assembly elections to be a step toward wrenching their right to an independent presence. They also believe that they are powerful due to their partisan discipline.

[Wali] The law has defined the way to establish parties. This has been followed by political leaderships which have formed the parties now playing their role in our political life. The size of the presence of each party in the political arena is something determined at the ballot boxes.

[Abu Husayn] For the second time, the election law has been referred by the Administrative Court to the Constitutional Court to examine the unconstitutionality of some of its articles. Do you not think that the election law needs to be amended or maybe abrogated to look for a new law more appropriate to Egyptian political life in light of this situation?

[Wali] I always say that only the heavenly books cannot be modified. Anything else must be developed. It is important that this amendment comes to support our democratic march and spare it any unjustified shocks. The timing of the decision is no less important than its content. The authority here is the legislative body elected by the people to represent them. Commitment to the Constitution, the law, and jurisdiction is a fact which can be noticed by anybody who wants to be fair. To be fair we must praise the genuine democracy in our country under the existing laws. [Passage omitted]

Role of 'Stability' in Development Analyzed

JN141549 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
11 Sep 87 pp 1, 3

[Second in a series of articles by *Al-Ahram* Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' entitled "Horizons of the 90's"]

[Excerpts] Discussing increased production and development as the mainstay of building the future necessarily leads to a discussion of stability, it being the launching pad for production and society building. I am once again discussing stability since it is most essential for the goal of development and for attracting Egyptian and foreign investment. It is also necessary for creating job opportunities and solving social problems. Short of that, the goal will remain elusive and the problems without solutions. [Passage omitted]

The small extremist organizations that emerge in our country from time to time are not an Egyptian product as some people believe, even those who are members of these very organizations. These organizations are clearly a foreign product. Their first seeds were sown in the West Bank, which is under occupation. I leave it to the readers' intelligence to make out the significance of this particular place as a source of most of these organizations and their extremist ideas. These ideas and and their organizations then found their way out of the West Bank to Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, and Tunisia. Attempts are being made to infiltrate them into Egypt as part of the overall plan which seeks to demolish the stability and security of the entire Arab region. Accompanying this vicious plan are atempts by the Iranian revolution to export its Khomeyniite principles in a strange, suspect alliance with Syria and Libya. These attempts originated in the West Bank and Iran prior to the emergence of these organizations in Egypt.

It is strange that some elements of these organizations received military training in Iran and Lebanon. Moreover, these organizations have different names and locations, yet they maintain cooperation in the financial, organizational, intellectual, and training fields. Recent joint efforts by Arab security services have proven this. [Passage omitted]

In fairness to our country, it must be said that among Islamic communities it is the most respectful of Islamic values, ethics, traditions, and principles. Again, in fairness to our country, it must be said that among the Islamic communities it comes closest to applying provisions of the Islamic shari'ah in its laws and dealings. In their attempts to spread subversion and ruin, these organizations use the flimsy pretext of their calls for enforcement of Islamic shari'ah. Moreover, their claim that failure to enforce what little remains of the shari'ah is responsible for the economic straits and all other problems is baseless. Full application of the shari'ah will have to wait until societal conditons are ripe. Besides, this part of the shari'ah which has yet to be enforced surely cannot be held responsible for the economic crunch. The origins and accumulations of these problems are known, as are their solutions. Surely ruin and subversion and conflicts between extremist and moderate forces or between adherents of different faiths in the community in Egypt cannot provide the answers to these problems.

Let's take, for example, what happened in an Arab Muslim country to illustrate the dangers inherent in these claims. It is known that Tunisia depends on tourism and remittances by Tunisians working overseas for most of its income. Consequently, the largest employer in the country is the tourist industry. The confontation between the state and extremist organizations there led to a 90 percent drop in tourism from its 1986 level. Tourist services and facilities were at a standstill, joblessness was rampant, expatriate remittances dried up, and so did Arab investment. The sequel was a suspension of development and a stagnation that failed to provide the daily requirements of the Tunisian people.

This is the picture of a society that suffered from extremist organizations for just 1 year. Is that what the extremists want for our country? And what would things be like if this state of affairs continued for several years? [Passage omitted] They are trying to tempt and attract the youth with their mysterious claims. They direct their efforts mainly at youths between 12 and 24 years of age, the age of scientific formation. We do not deny that they

capitalize on certain negative elements, including the summer holidays of 6 long idle months, to which the youth fall prey. The absence of useful activities during this long period will not help instill in these youths a conviction that life is both work and worship for the good of man and society. [Passage omitted]

It must be said that opting for democracy illegitimizes any trend which practices or preaches the use of violence and force in pursuit of its goals, regardless of its arguments. This principle must apply equally to opposition and government forces. Both the ruling party and the opposition parties would thus be equally committed to a defense of democracy and its institutions and to a joint, positive confrontation of terrorist forces and trends donned in religious mantles. This also applies to some political parties that show sympathy for terrorists because they are opportunistic or too cowardly to publicly denounce it. This kind of commitment to establish the necessity and legitimacy of a joint confrontation of terror meets not only the security interests of society as a whole, but also the individual security interests of each political force, party, or group, and each individual.

Hence any concession, forbearance or identification, whether implicit or explicit, with terror groups must be deemed hostile to democracy. The legislative branch should therefore pass legislation regulating the joint confrontation of terror. It should be supported by public opinion and inspired by a concern to establish social and political security in the country. This is the democratic option which topped President Mubarak's agenda during his first term and which is bound to remain intact during his second term. [Passage omitted]

Libya

U.S. 'Aggression' Against Iran Denounced

LD250914 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Sep (JANA)—The international center for combating imperialism, Zionism, racism, reaction, and fascism yesterday issued a statement strongly denouncing the U.S.-imperialist aggression against Iran. The statement says that the "progressive force constituting the international center for combating imperialism, Zionism, racism, reaction, and fascism, while following with concern developments in the Arabian Gulf, condemns the U.S.-imperialist and Atlantist presence in the region and exposes the U.S. anti-Islamic role. This role supports the continuation of the [Iran-Iraq] war, the consecration of the provocative military presence of NATO states, and the violation of the sanctities of the Gulf littoral states, a matter that threatens to widen the war's scope and endangers the security of the region's peoples.

The statement indicates that the U.S.-imperialist, Zionist, and racist role in the Arabian Gulf region, with its concentrated military presence and the decision to turn this region into a zone of military operations, undermines all attempts aimed at bringing peace to this part of the world.

The international center reminds the international community, with all its bodies, that the imperialist-Atlantist role, steered by the madness of the United States, will make the chances of regional peace remote and will fan the flames of the war. This is a matter that might transform the conflict from a regional one into an international conflict waged by imperialism and its allies against the region's peoples aspiring to liberation, independence, and deliverance from imperialist influence. It might also supply a pretext for further interventions in the region and the concentration of instruments of aggression—such as fleets, armies, and spying devices—under the guise of protecting international waterways and safeguarding energy sources.

The statement also says that the international center strongly condemns the U.S.-imperialist attack against one of the constituent members of the international center for combating imperialism, Zionism, racism, reaction, and fascism, namely Iran, and stresses that the peoples of the region are the only ones concerned with ending the imperialist-Atlantist presence, with bringing about peace, and with halting the war in the Arabian Gulf.

Paper Cited on Al-Qadhdhafi Interview

Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 25 Sep (WAM)—Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has called for an end to the Iraq-Iran war regardless of its causes. In an interview today with the Al-Shariqah newspaper *Al-Khalij*, the text of which the newspaper will publish this Sunday [27 September], the Libyan leader stated that he had sent a memorandum to Iranian President Khamene'i on ending the war and that the Iranian president had replied to the memorandum in a positive manner, asking to pursue a dialogue with him.

Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi said that the war had been planned to be against the Arabs and against the wishes of the good-hearted Iranians whom we view as our brothers. Al-Qadhdhafi stressed that relations between his country and Iraq are now back to normal and that they have left behind the front of steadfastness and confrontation.

The Libyan president revealed that YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is mediating with Egypt on the return of Libyan pilots. He also said that Libya is currently discussing the establishment of a federal state with Algeria that will be announced this November.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Tunisia

LD241750 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] The minutes of an agreement on joint cooperation between the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Tunisia were signed in Tripoli this morning. The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's signatory was the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Service, while Tunisia's

signatory was Brother Hedi Baccouche, the Tunisian minister of social affairs. The signing ceremony was attended by members of the two delegations participating in the meetings.

The protocol covers cooperation in the fields of social affairs, labor, banking, joint companies, and numerous other aspects of cooperation.

Hedi Baccouche and the members of his delegation departed Tunisia this afternoon following the end of their visit to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Trade Minutes Signed With Uganda 24 Sep

LD242245 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] The minutes of a joint cooperation agreement between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Ugandan Republic were signed this evening in Tripoli.

The signing ceremony was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport, Ugandan Minister of Energy Bidandi Ssali, and members of the two delegations.

The minutes of the agreement include cooperation in trade. The two sides stressed the importance of implementing the trade program between the two friendly countries. The minutes also include cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Uganda in the fields of culture and information, as well as in holding company and banking arrangements.

The two sides agreed to set up a joint committee for economic and technical cooperation to follow up the agreement signed between the two friendly countries in this regard.

Chad Faya Commander Said Facing Execution

LD251300 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 25

[Text] JANA has learned from reliable sources that the commander of the (Ouji) garrison has staged an uprising. This follows conflicting reports about the fate of (Allahchi), who was reported by some sources to be sheltering with his forces in the Zogar Mountains. Other sources, however, said that the pro-agent Habre Fal [as heard] gangs had arrested him at Faya, where he is now facing execution.

Morocco

Romanian Prime Minister Continues Visit

Attends Laraki Dinner

LD241704 Rabat MAP in English 1224 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Rabat, Sept 24 (MAP—Morocco and Romania have reiterated their determination to reinforce and diversify their cooperation in all fields, and their engagement in favour of world peace and peaceful settlement of conflict, particularly in the Middle East and the Gulf.

In an exchange of toasts at a dinner banquet offered Wednesday evening in Rabat by Moroccan Premier Azzedine Laraki in honor of his visiting Romanian counterpart Constantin Dascalescu, Laraki stressed the "convergence of our view-points" regarding the reciprocal desire to reinforce bilateral relations and their analysis of major world issues.

"Our countries' foreign policies obey the unchanging principles giving all their significance to the respect of countries' independence and their sovereignty, the respect of their territorial integrity and the non-interference in others' internal affairs," Laraki said.

"Our two countries," he said, "work with (?determination) for the establishment of peace and for the settlement of conflicts between states through peaceful means, particularly regarding Palestine, the Middle East and the Iran-Iraq war."

They are also convergent regarding the world economic crisis, particularly the question of the developing countries' foreign debt he added.

Dascalescu for his part stressed the "ascending course of the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation" between Morocco and Romania.

"I have come to your country," he said, "with the determination to proceed with an in-depth analysis of our bilateral relations, mainly in the economic field, and to identify new avenues to accelerate the realization of projects and objectives decided upon at the highest levels in favour of a harmonious and dynamic development of cooperation between our countries peoples." Dascalescu also stressed his country's engagement in favour of world peace, mainly its efforts in favour of disarmament. He hailed in this respect the conclusion of the U.S.-Soviet agreement on the elimination of medium-range and tactical missiles.

Concerning the Middle East and the Gulf issues, Dascalescu said his country was "firmly in favour" of a "comprehensive, lasting and just peace in this region".

"In this regard," he went on, "we believe it is necessary to organize an international peace conference under the aegis of the United Nations Organization and with the participation of all concerned parties including the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel, as well as the permanent members of the Security Council."

"We are also for the immediate cessation of the war opposing Iran and Iraq and the settlement of the problems of the region exclusively through peaceful means" he further said.

Concerning the world economic crisis and foreign debt, Dascalescu said Romania believes it is necessary that the U.N. call on developed creditor countries and international financial institutions, particularly the IMF and the World Bank to adopt measures in favour of a just settlement of the world's economic and financial problems.

Earlier on Wednesday, Laraki and Dascalescu had held a tete-a-tete, followed by an enlarged working session attended by the two countries delegations.

The session was attended, on the Moroccan side, by ministers of equipment and staff and vocational training Mohamed Kabbaj, of transports Mohamed Bouamoud, of energy and mines Mohamed Fettah, of trade and industry Abdallah Azmani, of posts and telecommunications Mohand el-Ansar and of minister delegate in charge of economic affairs Moulay Zine Zahidi.

On the Romanian side, the session was attended by Minister of Transports and Telecommunications Pavel Aron, Secretary of State to Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation Constantin Stanca, Deputy-Foreign Minister Constantin Oancea and Deputy-Minister of Chemical and petrochemical Industries Dumitru Nicolaescu.

The Romanian prime minister had arrived in Rabat on Wednesday afternoon on a four-day official visit at the invitation of Mr Laraki.

Meets With Parliamentarians

LD241705 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Excerpts] The visit by Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu to our country has entered its 2d day. This morning he visited the Mint, the national water authority headquarters, and the Chamber of Representatives, where he conferred with the first deputy speaker and leaders of parliamentary groups. Later he held a working session with leaders of parliamentary groups. [passage omitted] Mohamed Jalal Essaid, first deputy speaker of the Chamber of Representatives, praised the cooperation between Morocco and Romania and the good relations between His Majesty King Hassan II and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. [passage omitted]

Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu touched upon a number of issues, including Moroccan-Romanian relations, the Middle East, and disarmament. He stated that bilateral relations will be consolidated and that the talks he held with officials from his majesty's government will inject new blood into Moroccan-Romanian cooperation, ensuring that it will reach the standard of relations existing between the leaders of the two countries. On the Middle East issue, the Romanian prime minister stated that his country will continue to support the resolution of this problem under the auspices of the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Meets With King

LD241706 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him, received the prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania at the royal palace in Skhirat this afternoon. The prime minister was accompanied by a Romanian ministerial delegation, which was composed of the minister of transportation and telecommunications, the deputy minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, the deputy minister of petrochemical industry, and Romania's ambassador in Rabat. During this audience, his majesty bestowed on the Romanian prime minister the highest rank of the Alawite Medal.

The audience was attended by Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki; Ahmed Reda Guedira, his majesty's adviser; Mohamed Kabbaj, minister of equipment and vocational cadre training; Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state for foreign affairs; and 'Abd al-Wahhab Chorfi, his majesty's ambassador to Romania.

Following the audience, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, presided over a working session with the Romanian Prime Minister and members of both delegations.

Sudan

Kenya Asked To Clarify Minister's Remarks

JN241127 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Sep (SUNA)—Yesterday, Sudan requested clarification from the Kenyan Government, through its embassy in Khartoum, concerning remarks attributed to the Kenyan education minister, that his government is ready to extend all facilities and assistance to the John Garang movement.

Today, in the newspaper, *Al-Rayah*, mouthpiece of the National Islamic Front, the Foreign Ministry under secretary stated that Sudan regards Kenya's efforts, including the opening of its territory for dialogue with Garang, as designed to promote peace. However, the Foreign Ministry has asked Kenya whether the remarks allegedly made by its education minister constitute a new position or whether there is some other explanation.

Garang Urges 'Permanent Solution' in South

EA241856 Nairobi KNA in English 1735 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Nairobi 24 Sep—The leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, Col John Garang, has decried heavy losses of human and natural resources being caused by the civil war in his country and called for a peaceful solution between the warring groups.

He disclosed that the current conflict in Sudan was costing the country about three million dollars a day and said this was a big loss to a developing country like Sudan. Col Garang said this today when he addressed local and international journalists at a Nairobi hotel.

He said that what was needed in Sudan to stop losses of human and natural resources was a permanent solution to the issues that led to the conflict.

On the just-concluded peace talks between his movement and other six African political parties which signed a communique before President Moi and appealed to other political parties in Sudan which did not join them in the conference to consider joining them to look for a peaceful and permanent solution to the current political crisis in their country. [sentence as received]

He said that his movement was ready to meet the Sudanese Government and other political parties in any of the neighbouring countries to discuss on how they could end the atrocities being caused by the war.

The colonel hailed the Kenya Government for providing facilities which had enabled the two sides to reach a meaningful agreement, saying that Kenya's gesture showed her concern and commitment in looking for a solution to the Sudanese problem. "Kenya's provision of facilities did not mean support to my movement but it was a gesture of a friendly neighbouring country to help a neighbour look for a political solution to her problems."

Col Garang was flanked by one of his senior aides, Lt Wol Ding. He was introduced to the journalist by an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Michael Okeyo.

During the conference Col Garang briefed pressmen on the political situation in Sudan and answered several questions from them regarding the situation in his country.

Al-Mahdi Said To Threaten Dismissal of Ministers

EA241053 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Reports emanating from Khartoum say the prime minister, Mr Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, has threatened to dismiss all the ministers in the Southern Council who went for talks with the SPLM/SPLA and the Anyanya-II, in Addis Ababa last month.

According to *Heritage* weekly, published in Khartoum, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is angered by the statement signed in Addis Ababa by the Sudan African parties, SPLM/SPLA, and the Anyanya-II, which was opposed to sectarianism and called for the implementation of the Koka Dam declaration.

Armed Forces Chief Says Cubans With Garang

JN251104 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1024 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Sep (WAKH)—General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, Sudanese Armed Forces commander in chief, has stated that foreign forces are fighting with John Garang's rebel movement and that these forces are assisting Garang's forces in their military operations in southern Sudan. In a statement to the Abu Dhabi-based *Al-Ittihad* newspaper, the Sudanese commander in chief said that his forces recently sighted the Cuban forces participating in rebel battles against the Sudanese forces at Al-Dajah [name as received] camp in the Al-Bijazin [name as received] military area.

The Sudanese commander in chief said that the Sudanese Army scored an important victory against the rebels and pursued them. This forced them to retreat to their bases.

Al-Mirghani Briefed on Security in South

JN241444 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1414 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Sep (SUNA)—State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani was briefed on the security situation, especially with regard to military operations, during his meeting today with General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces.

The commander in chief told SUNA that he acquainted the State Council chairman with the calm prevailing in the military zones in southern Sudan and Kordofan, reiterating that the Armed Forces are in control of the situation there and that roads in the zones of operations are kept open to help citizens lead a normal daily life. He added that Al-Mirghani praised the Armed Forces' efforts and their pursuit of the outlaw forces.

Army Chief Denies Presence of Libyan Troops

JN241547 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Sep (SUNA)—General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, has affirmed that the violations of our airspace, in the border areas by Ethiopian planes, have been greatly reduced recently. He indicated that these violations have always occurred in the pursuit of Eritreans.

Al-Fadil added that the interlocking of the Ethiopian-Sudanese border is largely responsible for these incidents. However, he said the government does not rule out the possibility that these airspace violations are an attempt to intimidate. He asserted the Armed Forces are monitoring, and ready to confront, such incidents.

In a statement to SUNA today, the commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces denied again the presence of Libyan troops in the Darfur region or on the Sudan-Chad border. He added that the Sudanese Armed Forces have not registered any border violations in this area.

Egyptian Trade Talks Concluded; Minutes Signed

JN241913 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Sep (SUNA)—The Sudanese-Egyptian trade talks, which were held to reassess the implementation of the trade protocol signed by the two

countries, and to rectify negative trade and administrative matters that have recently surfaced, were concluded here today.

The two sides signed the minutes of the talks. The minutes include steps which, when implemented, will rectify the protocol so as to guarantee the flow of the commodities covered by it and tackle transgressions involving these commodities with the proper flexibility.

'Umar al-Mubarak, under secretary of the Ministry of Trade, signed for Sudan, while 'Adil al-Jarihi, first under secretary of the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, signed for Egypt.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Small Panamanian Ship Sunk in Gulf 22 Sep

JN241318 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] A maritime source in the Gulf today stated that a small Panamanian ship sank when it struck a mine near Iran's Farsi Island the day before yesterday, killing four of its crew. Three of the crew members escaped.

The incident occurred a few hours after an Iranian vessel opened fire on the British oil tanker *Gentle Breeze* in the same area.

Bahrain

2-Year Budget System Temporarily Suspended

JN241350 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Manama, 24 Sep (WAKH)—Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim, Bahraini finance and national economy minister, has announced that the 2-year budget system employed in previous years will be temporarily suspended and replaced by a short-term budget system. He added that this will continue until oil prices stabilize, after which the 2-year budget system will be restored. He attributed this measure to the instability in oil prices, which constitute 70 percent of the state's basic revenues.

In a statement to today's issue of the Bahraini newspaper *Akhbar Al-Khalij*, Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim stated that the government decided to issue only the 1988 budget. He stressed that the policy of rationalizing spending will continue without affecting basic services to citizens either qualitatively or quantatively.

The Bahraini finance and national economy minister pointed out that all the programs submitted by the ministries will be endorsed in the new budget after all these ministries have responded positively to the state's directives to rationalize spending.

He additionally asserted that the budget deficit does not call for great concern since it can be remedied through internal loans by issuing development and treasury bonds. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Addresses UN 24 Sep

LD242313 Kuwait KUNA in English 2126 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] United Nations, Sept 24 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Ahmad of Kuwait said Thursday developments of the past few weeks have made it clear Iran is determined "to infringe by all means" upon Kuwait and its territorial integrity.

The Kuwaiti top official also said Iran has turned the Arabian Gulf into "a highly inflammable tinderbox" that has led to the presence of foreign fleets and warships, each seeking to protect interests and freedom of navigation in the waterway.

Speaking before the General Assembly, Shaykh Sabah said residential and industrial quarters in some areas of Kuwait and its islands had come under Iranian missile attack.

These are "acts of aggression that have no justification but the expansion of this war, the further fanning of its flames and the multiplication of its victims," he said.

Shaykh Sabah also called attention to the recent incidents at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran, where its members had been detained and mistreated and the contents ransacked and burned.

The embassy, he said, was and still is occupied in violation of the simplest rules of international law and those governing diplomatic relations among nations.

The incidents in Mecca during the holy week bear another witness to Iranian practices, he said.

"We call upon Iran from this platform to refrain from such practices, and to respect the rules and laws that regulate countries' relations and ensure neighborliness for the benefit of the region and its safety," Shaykh Sabah told the 159-member world body.

"Neighborliness will not be developed through aggression and provocation, but through cooperation, cohesion and fraternity," Shaykh Sabah said.

Shaykh Sabah said Resolution 598, adopted unanimously July 20, may now be the last chance of securing a just and lasting peace between the two countries and for the region's peace. And that responsibility for pressing toward the implementation of this resolution is that of everyone, he said.

"History will hold us all accountable, without mercy, if we fail to exert the effort and pressure for its implementation," he said.

"We all are therefore partners in good and bad, in welfare and evil, in war and peace. So let us work together for peace, and while hailing Iraq's acceptance of this resolution, let us sincerely call upon Iran to fully and unambiguously accept it without any delay so as to drop the curtain on the acts of this tragedy which contravenes Heaven's values as well as earthly laws.

"Since we fully value the unceasing efforts by the secretary-general to implement the resolution, especially his recent trip to Tehran and Baghdad, we believe that we are all duty-bound to support this endeavour to the utmost, and without falling into the trap of deception or chasing the mirage," Shaykh Sabah said.

Since the eruption of the war, Kuwait has undertaken self-initiated and collective contacts with other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as regional and international organisations to bring this war to a prompt and just end, Shaykh Sabah noted.

Kuwait subsequently tried to persuade the leaders in Iran to resort to peace, as Iraq did by its positive response to numerous resolutions and initiatives, he said.

But Iran rejected all those calls and also "erroneously and arbitrarily" interpreted Kuwait's activities towards realising this purpose, thereby setting out to target Kuwait—a nation not party to the conflict.

"We have exercised the utmost self-restraint in the face of those provocations and assaults, for we sought not to intensify and expand them, and we are the ones seeking to stop them and who resorted to the international legitimacy as represented by the Security-Council, to halt those attacks and safeguard the countries not party to the conflict," he said.

Nevertheless, the leaders in Iran continued depriving Kuwait of its oil exports, "thereby undermining our ability to meet our domestic and international commitments and to continue our role in contributing to the economic development programmes in the developing countries."

"Faced with such a development, we had to make familiar and ordinary commercial arrangements which had previously been made by many countries, including Iran itself, to prevent our tankers' exposure," Shaykh Sabah said.

"Iran has intentionaly touched off a commotion over this commercial measure, a commotion meant to upstage its policies and practices against us, and represents one of the most pressing and threatening aspects of escalation witnessed by our region these days," he said.

As a basic tenet of foreign policy, Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah said, has been asserting that the security of the Gulf region is but the exclusive responsibility of the countries in the region.

As this region supplies the world with an indispensable resource, and thus considerably contributes to the world's well-being, "this region must remain free of tensions and crises, and use and threat of force should not prevail among its countries "if major powers' rivalries and sinister foreign intervention are to be avoided," Shaykh Sabah said. [quotation marks as received]

Regarding the Palestinian question, Shaykh Sabah called on those countries with "decisive influence" over Israel to pressure that country into accepting the convening of an international conference for the purpose of establishing peace in the Middle East "and secure the Palestinian peoples' right to return to their homes from the torment of homelessness and ruin."

Turning to Lebanon, Shaykh Sabah deplored Israel's continued refusal to withdraw and stop interfering in Lebanon's domestic affairs.

"The world community must press Israel to withdraw from all the Lebanese territories," Shaykh Sabah said. "We are also required to firmly stand by Lebanon and behind the steadfastness of its people in order to ensure its independence, sovereignty and the unity of its territories, people and institutions," he said.

Discussing Afghanistan, Shaykh Sabah said Kuwait welcomes the constructive efforts by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and hopes that the parties will be flexible in their endeavour to reach a solution.

Minister Denies Reported Oil Gift to Syria

LD250859 Kuwait KUNA in English 0803 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] United Nations, Sept 25 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah denied Thursday a newspaper report that Kuwait had given oil to Syria in exchange for Syria's presence at the fifth Islamic conference held in Kuwait last January.

"Such distortion of news is meant to sow discord between brothers," Shaykh Sabah told KUNA.

Shaykh Sabah said he had told the newspaper Kuwait had shipped oil to Syria upon Syria's request prior to the Islamic summit, and that other requests still were being considered.

Paper Criticizes Call for UN Gulf Force

LD250852 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 25 (KUNA)—The Kuwait daily *Al-Ra'y Al-'Aam* Friday criticised the Soviet Union, without naming it, for calling for a United Nations force in the Gulf at a time other major world powers are considering sanctions on Iran to force an end to its war with Iraq.

The call for withdrawal of the foreign fleets from the Gulf and their replacement by a United Nations force "will only lead to prolongation of the conflict and its extention, a situation which fully meets with Iran's policies," the newspaper said.

It is unacceptable to talk about a U.N. force in the Gulf to ensure freedom of navigation at a time [when] the war has been dragging for seven years and Iraqi territories occupied, the newspaper said, arguing "what is required is not protection of the waterways but an end to the war."

The daily commended the British prompt decision in closing down Iran's arms procurement office as an example for others to follow should they be really concerned with bringing an end to the war by depriving Iran of the tools of destruction.

"If those are genuine in their proposals and peace plans and reconciled with their political stands...they have to withdraw from nearby territories they entered and militarised despite the will of its people," *Al-Ra'y Al-'Aam* concluded in clear reference to the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan.

Oman

Government Agrees To Receive Iranian Crew

JN241216 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1155 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Muscat, 24 Sep (WAKH)—The Government of the Sultanate of Oman has announced its satisfaction with the approval by both Iran and the United States that it receive the Iranian crew rescued at sea by the U.S. Navy, which had a military engagement with the crew's ship in the northern Gulf the day before yesterday.

A statement issued by the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs and broadcast over Muscat radio at noon today said that the Omani Government has made the necessary arrangements to receive the crew members and to hand them over to the Iranian Government on Saturday, 26 September. The statement gave no further explanations.

First Envoy to USSR Set After Ties' Renewal

JN240653 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Muscat, 23 Sep (WAKH)—It was announced here this evening that Nizar ibn Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Shaykh has been appointed as Oman's resident ambassador to the Soviet Union. This is the first time that Oman has appointed a resident ambassador to the Soviet Union since diplomatic relations were established a year ago. This appointment was announced in a sultani decree issued by His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman today. Nizar ibn Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Shaykh had earlier held the post of Oman's ambassador to the FRG.

PDRY

U.S. Gulf Attack May Cause Escalation

EA250946 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Program entitled: "A Report and a Comment"]

[Text] The Yemeni Council for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Peoples expresses deep concern over the presence in Arab Gulf waters of U.S. warships and vessels of a number of the Atlantic alliance's member states. It affirms that the presence of these forces in the region poses an increased threat to peace. The concern expressed by the Yemeni Council for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Peoples reflects the reality of the feelings of the Yemeni people and the region's peoples toward the deteriorating conditions in the Gulf.

The first signs of the dangers that the peoples of the region have been fearing and expecting with trepidation have now surfaced. When the United States announced the dispatch of its warships to the region on the pretext of protecting maritime navigation, Democratic Yemen was among the first states to oppose this move due to its awareness of the ill-intentions harbored by the U.S. Administration toward the region's peoples. Ever since the start of the Iran-Iraq war, the United States has showed no initiative to indicate its desire to end this tragic war. Rather, it has schemed and plotted with the aim of prolonging the war and fueling its fire.

When the U.S. Administration decided to send its warships to the Arab Gulf waters, it did so both to preserve its interests in the region—specifically, its oil interests—without paying attention to the tragedies caused by the Iran-Iraq war, and to threaten the region's progressive regimes and liberation movements.

When Democratic Yemen opposes the NATO-U.S. military presence, it is correct in this opposition because it knows both the danger that this presence brings and the aggressive spirit nurtured by the United States. This was confirmed by the attack carried out by U.S. warplanes against an Iranian vessel on the pretext that it was scattering mines in the Gulf waters.

What happened might outwardly appear to be an isolated incident. However, the reality is that this incident is the inevitable result of the U.S. military presence; it may also prove to be the spark that kindles the fuse of a dangerous war in the region, a war whose outbreak has long been feared. Undoubtedly, one who follows the march of history realizes that many destructive wars have been ignited by incidents that outwardly appeared unimportant but were in essence like (?the straw) that breaks the camel's back.

The peoples of the region cannot be certain of living in security and stability until they know both that the United States and the Atlantic alliance states have withdrawn their forces and warships from the Gulf waters and that the Iran-Iraq war has ended. These are two demands that Democratic Yemen and all peace-loving states, headed by the Soviet Union, are pressing for as a basic condition for removing dangers from the region and providing security for its peoples.

Central Committee Secretariat Meets

EA241043 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] The YSP Central Committee Secretariat has held its regular meeting chaired by Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee. The Secretariat discussed a number of reports on its agenda, including a report assessing the extent of implementation of the high party institution's plan for the first half of 1987. Also discussed was the amended plan for institutions for the second half of 1987. A report assessing the level of preparations for the 10th session of the Central Committee was additionally reviewed. This meeting discussed a report on combat and political training for defense and security institutions and the program of celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the establishment of *Al-Thawri*, the mouthpiece of the YSP Central Committee. Also examined was the possibility of financial aid for the local people's radio station in the Governorate of Al-Mahrah for 1987.

The meeting adopted the necessary decisions on issues on its agenda.

Yemen Arab Republic

Security Talks Held With Saudi Arabia

JN241555 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] A round of talks was held last night between our country and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Dr 'Abdallah Barakat, minister of the interior and member of the Standing Committee, led the Yemeni side while His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz headed the Saudi representation.

During the meeting, they discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the security field.

In a statement to *Saba' News Agency* following the meeting, Prince Nayif affirmed that the session was fruitful and dealt with all issues concerning both fraternal countries' Interior Ministries. He pointed out that this reflects the security interests of both countries and peoples. He also affirmed that the talks were clear and frank and that views were identical on the various issued discussed.

On the Yemeni side, the session was attended by Brother Yahya al-Raziqi, Interior Ministry under secretary for police and training affairs, and a number of the Ministry's officials. The Saudi side's representation at the session included Prince Nayif's accompanying delegation.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Sanaa 24 Sep

JN242037 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in Sanaa this evening leading the Palestinian revolution's delegation to participate in our people's celebrations of the immortal Yemeni 26 September revolution's 25th anniversary. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Tariq 'Aziz UN Meetings

Meets Brazilian Foreign Minister

JN240834 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Brazilian Foreign Affairs Minister Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre in New York last night. They discussed developments in the Iraq-Iran war, international efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which calls for a comprehensive end to the Iraq-Iran war, and bilateral relations. Tariq 'Aziz is attending the 42d session of the UN General Assembly.

Confers With USSR's Shevardnadze

JN241742 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] New York, 24 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who is participating in the meetings of the UN General Assembly's 42d session. They discussed the ongoing international efforts to secure the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598 to end the Iraq-Iran war. They also discussed the need for the Security Council members to remain united in their efforts to implement this resolution. The two officials reviewed recent developments in the Arabian Gulf. Tariq 'Aziz is now in New York to participate in the meetings of the UN General Assembly's 42d session, which began on 15 September.

Meets With Perez de Cuellar

JN242003 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met in New York today with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. They discussed recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the ongoing efforts to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 to end the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Envoy Praises Arab League Resolutions on Iran

JN231601 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1443 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Tunis, 23 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin 'Ali, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, has described the Arab League Council's two resolutions condemning the Iranian regime for transporting Iranian Jews to occupied Palestine and for its cooperation with the Zionist entity on armaments as a crowning of the Arab conviction that this regime is dangerous to the Arab nation and its national security. In a statement to an INA correspondent, Iraq's permanent representative affirmed that the condemnation of this regime indicates the Arab countries' awareness of the extent to which this regime poses a danger to issues fateful to the Arab nation.

He said that the situation calls for moving from the framework of condemnation to imposing comprehensive Arab and international sanctions on the Iranian regime for its insistence on war and its rejection of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. He added that the Iranian-Zionist cooperation, which Iraq exposed a long time ago, seeks to continue aggression against the Arab nation and incite sedition in it.

Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League touched on the Syrian regime's anti pan-Arab stands. He said that the Syrian regime's stands in the Arab League Council do not take into consideration supreme pan-Arab interests. He noted that the danger of the Syrian position has reached the point of countering supreme Arab interests through collusion with the stand of an aggressive and ambitious foreign country, which explicitly announces its intentions and ambitions on Arab land. He called for exposing the voices hostile to the Arab nation's interests to safeguard the joint Arab action and the unity of Arab objectives and destiny.

RCC Vice Chairman Leaves for Sanaa 24 Sep

JN240947 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim left for Sanaa today on a visit to the YAR to participate in the 26 September revolution silver jubilee celebrations. 'Izzat Ibrahim is accompanied by a delegation which includes RCC Member Hasan 'Ali.

Further Reportage on Gulf Combat Operations

Planes Hit 2 Power Stations

JN241512 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1422 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Iraqi fighter planes this afternoon dealt violent blows to two power stations at Reza Shah Dam and Sadd-e Dez, which provide Iran with a great deal of electric power.

According to Armed Forces General Command Communique No 2,841, issued here today, the Iraqi fighter planes directed their violent blows at the two stations at 1215 [0815 GMT] and returned safely to base. [Passage omitted]

The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 2,841 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great. God be praised for granting us victory and for helping us to destroy daily the pillars of tyranny and remove the factors of aggression. Our heroic Air Force will always pound the heads of the criminal rulers of Iran.

Based on our duty toward our people and homeland and to impose peace by divesting the aggressors of the economic pillars that help them to continue the war, a

number of our heroic Air Force planes penetrated deep inside Iranian territory today, challenging enemy defenses with great courage and impeccable performance, to strike the following extremely important targets:

1. At 1215 a number of our planes dealt a violent blow to the power station at Reza Shah Dam.

2. At the same time, our planes launched a violent raid against the power station at Sadd-e Dez. These two stations provide a great deal of power to Iran. Having carried out these two heroic missions, our brave pilots returned to the homeland with their planes, safely and triumphantly.

Thus, the Iranian rulers should learn that nothing can protect them from God's orders and that no target inside Iran, no matter how protected or remote, will escape the missiles of our pilots.

We will continue to deal blows like these, as well as even more powerful ones, until the Iranian rulers desist and understand that they will gain nothing from this war of aggression except more humiliation and frustration. These rulers will know that our ancient country, which pursues lofty ideals and which is led by Saddam Husayn, will only bow before God. Our brave men will continue to pound and step on the heads of the racist, anti-Arab, and Zionist agents. God bless our heroic Air Force—commanders, pilots, officers, and men—for its outstanding achievements. We praise God for His guidance and support; He is the best guide and supporter.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 September 1987

Communique No 2,842

JN241639 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Communique No 2,842 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces have continued their glorious defense of the chaste homeland, inflicting on our enemies new losses through their activities last night and today. The following is a roundup of these activities:

1. Our heroic Air Force carried out 96 combat missions to implement the tasks mentioned in Communique No 2,841 issued this evening, as well as attacks on enemy concentrations in the operational areas. All our planes returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. The brave helicopter gunship knights carried out 20 combat sorties in which they inflicted new losses on enemy personnel, weapons, and hardware. They then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. In the I Army Corps northern sector, three infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed.

4. In the II Army Corps central sector, two ammunition dumps were destroyed.

5. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, our brave units pounded the enemy before them and killed five enemy personnel, damaged one tank, and destroyed one mortar, three infantry positions, and four observation posts.

6. Our forces in the VII Army Corps sector killed seven enemy personnel, damaged one machinegun emplacement, one mortar emplacement, and one infantry position, and blew up one ammunition dump.

7. The vile Khomeyniites shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra with long-range artillery yesterday evening and today. As a result 12 civilians, including 3 women, were martyred, a number of civilians were wounded, and houses and civilian property were damaged. The evil Khomeyniites also shelled the villages of Khanaqin, Badrah, and Sirwan. As a result, some civilian property was damaged. Mercy to our martyrs and a swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 September 1987

'Large Maritime Target' Attacked

JN250758 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0740 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Statement by military spokesman dated 25 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In continuation of our valiant Air Force's role of dealing blows to vital economic targets connected to the war effort and of depriving the Iranian regime of its oil supplies whose revenues are used for the purpose of aggression, our daring aircraft carried out a successful raid against a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 0500 [0100 GMT] today. After dealing an accurate and effective blow to the target, our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

[Dated] 25 September 1987

Basra Shelling Continues

JN250917 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has stated that the criminal Iranian regime today continued to shell purely residential areas in Basra with long-range artillery. As a result of the enemy shelling, 7 civilians, including 1 woman, were martyred, and 16 others were wounded.

In a statement to INA a short while ago, the military spokesman said that the enemy shelling also damaged one hospital, two mosques, an elementary school, and several houses and shops.

The spokesman said that, as usual, the Iranians will claim they have shelled military and economic targets. How can they explain the killing of women and children?

What have these innocent civilians to do with military targets? How can the Iranians also explain the shelling of places of worship?

The military spokesman added that the Iranian regime's criminal actions against civilians and places of worship are irrefutable proof of its lies and demonstrate to the world that the Iranian regime is a terrorist regime which has been murdering and kidnapping many citizens in other countries. This also shows that this regime has nothing to do with religion.

Iranian Opposition Claims Military Attacks

JN241251 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] units captured two bases and a command center belonging to the Iranian regime's Guards in the Mehran area during a series of operations on 22 September. A communique by Mojahed radio, mouthpiece of the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, received here today said that the operations resulted in the killing of 40 Iranian regime Guards. Among those killed were Abu Khabari, regiment deputy commander; 'Abbas Kanshuz, base commander; and Bahruzi, base deputy commander.

The communique reported that another 18 Iranian regime Guards, including a Guards regiment commander, were captured in the operational area. Moreover, enemy fortifications and reinforcements were destroyed, including 24 group reinforcements and 18 defensive positions. Two command centers, three ammunition dumps, and fuel tanks were also destroyed and a number of radios and a large quantity of other equipment were captured. The communique said that other INLA units later opened fire on three other bases and severed their supply routes. Scores of Iranian regime Guards were killed as a result of this attack.

Anti-Iranian Operations Reported

JN241157 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Paris, Sept 24, INA—Iranian opposition Kumelah combatants made a series of attacks against Iranian regime's positions in the Sanandaj area between the 12-14 of current month. A statement issued by Kumelah today said that one of its groups attacked on September 14th an Iranian regime's patrol near the village of Gerno [name as received] killing and injuring a number of its men.

The statement added that another group attacked on the 13th a Khomeyni regime headquarters near the village of Mamoch [name as received] on the route leading to Sanandaj and occupied positions capturing all occupants. The statement stressed that the group captured 7 G.C. rifles and Kalashinkovs, 15 hand grenades and a wireless set.

Moreover several units of Kumelah combatants carried out a series of armed operation against the regime's bases taking over Mayana base after swift battles.

The statement added that during the attack a number of base elements were killed and 15 captured.

The statement added that other armed Kumelah groups ambushed Iranian regime forces in Mayana street killing and injuring a number of its elements.

Reportage on Attacks on IDF Personnel

Soldier Wounded in Clash

TA241406 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] An IDF soldier was wounded and two terrorists were killed in southern Lebanon this morning during a clash with a terrorist squad. The IDF spokesman said that the incident occurred at 0500 this morning northeast of Bint Jubayl, which is on the fringes of the security strip.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the terrorists were evidently en route to planting a roadside bomb and mines on roads frequently patrolled by the IDF and the South Lebanese Army. The terrorists were Hizballah members and were found in possession of hand grenades, personal weapons, and explosives.

Reservist Stabbed to Death

TA241913 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Alexander Arad, a 43-year-old IDF reserve soldier, was stabbed to death this morning at Megiddo Junction. A suspect who was found in possession of the victim's personal weapon has been apprehended.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Alexander Arad was waiting for a ride this morning when his assailant attacked him, stabbing him all over his body. Arad tried to fight back but was mortally wounded and subsequently died on the way to the hospital. The murder suspect is a resident of the Janin area.

The court issued a news blackout on the affair immediately after the incident at the request of the police. The blackout was lifted only a short while ago.

Soldier Wounded in Security Strip

TA250520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] An IDF soldier was wounded last night in the security zone after terrorists opened fire on a group of soldiers on patrol. The IDF troops returned fire. The wounded soldier was evacuated to hospital. The incident took place close to the village of Al-'Ayshiyah, northwest of Mettula. Early yesterday morning, another IDF soldier was wounded. Two terrorists were killed in that clash.

Shomron on Syria's 'Strategic Parity' Bid

TA241453 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1105 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Interview with Chief of Staff Dan Shomron by Alon Ben-David and Nahman Shay; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Shay] Lieutenant General Shomron, do the Syrians still want to achieve strategic parity with Israel and what does this mean for them?

[Shomron] Clearly they do and Al-Asad declared this in an interview with a U.S. newspaper. Al-Asad's and Syria's policy is ongoing. They are striving to achieve strategic parity with Israel and in my opinion this is part of their policy, part of their general concept. They have economic difficulties, but despite this they are continuing—in my opinion at a slower pace than they would have liked—in their attempts to reach it; they are continuing this process.

[Ben-David] Do they have a deadline?

[Shomron] I do not think they have a deadline. In my opinion, once they believe they have reached strategic parity—and I interpret this strategic parity not as an ability to fight Israel as an equal power...

[Ben-David, interrupting] But this is how they see it.

[Shomron] I do not think they believe that they can reach this goal at all. In my opinion, strategic parity for them means the ability to maintain their strength after they have initiated a military action. This means that if they believe they can begin some kind of military action, even if only limited, and can hold on without a real danger of collapse until the intervention of the superpowers or any other political process starts to unfold, this will be the stage where there is a real danger that they might decide to initiate such a military move. In my opinion, strategic parity is their ability following a military move to hold on for quite a long time vis-a-vis the Israeli Army before their Army collapses.

[Ben-David] Syria is equipping itself with new weapons, the MIG-29's, and maybe they will also receive the T-80 tanks and the SAM-23's. How does this affect strategic parity; how do you assess this threat?

[Shomron] A process of military buildup is a dynamic process; it never stops. Newer weapons are always arriving and existing weapons are constantly being improved. A tank like the T-62 can receive new fire control systems, better shells, and it can even be equipped with better armor. The process of military buildup and the introduction of new combat doctrines is a dynamic and ongoing process. Just as in Alice in Wonderland, we have to run very fast in order to remain in the same place with regard to the qualitative edge we are maintaining. This is an ongoing process and I do not see anything special in it.

The MIG-29 represents a new stage. It is a high-quality plane on a par with the F-16 and perhaps the F-15 in general terms. We do not know exactly what the inner components of this plane are, its avionics, electronics, and the electronic warfare means inside it. This obviously is very important in determining the performance of this plane. The very existence of the MIG-29 constitutes a serious potential threat. What the real threat is I do not know; at this point we cannot say accurately. [Passage omitted]

On Army Cuts, Lebanon

TA231651 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
23 Sep 87 p B4

[Interview with Chief of Staff Dan Shomron by Ya'aqov Erez and 'Imanu'el Rosen; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [*Ma'ariv*] Before you became chief of staff you spoke about a smaller and smarter army.

[Shomron] Let us be more accurate. I have heard talk to the effect that a small army is necessarily smarter and of higher quality. This is not true. However, the balance of power between us and our enemies has never been to our favor and it is becoming constantly worse for us and we must aim at minimizing our casualties in war. We must develop weapons that will enable us to come out of a war with fewer casualties, and in order to have this we are forced to cut the army.

Let me emphasize that I do not believe in a push-button war; there is no such thing. Moreover, it takes time until a new system becomes fully practicable. The Lavi is a good example. Suppose that between 75 to 90 planes had been produced. In order to attain technical maturity we would have had to have flown many years and experienced technical faults and needed a huge quantity of spare parts. Look at the Merkava tank; even today it still suffers from childhood diseases.

[*Ma'ariv*] So your stand in favor of a small army stems from budgetary constraints?

[Shomron] Obviously I am in favor of a large, top quality, and inexpensive army...only unfortunately these things do not go together. In my order of priorities the first thing is a high-quality army and size occupies second place. I will not speak about cheapness because there is no such thing. In the past the Army would tell the government: This is what I need...

[*Ma'ariv*] And did it receive it?

[Shomron] Sometimes yes and sometimes no. In my opinion the most important thing we did not receive was for the tank corps. In 1978 we completed the establishment of the new order of battle following the Yom Kippur war. A situation was created in which to maintain this order of battle we had to undermine its quality. We did not have the necessary budget to maintain a balanced army. Over the years there was a tremendous erosion in tank corps training hours.

It is true that we maintained the size of the tank corps, but we cut training and hurt the quality. This is why I say that quality is the first thing. A large army is for us today like Swiss cheese, more holes than cheese.

[*Ma'ariv*] Can you pinpoint the place where the budget cuts hurt most?

[Shomron] The cut is a matter of priorities. We are the ones who decide where to cut and naturally we are looking for the least painful areas. In my opinion the most difficult thing was having to dismiss a very large group of career army personnel. This can lead to morale problems, hit at the self- confidence of the officers, and cause us to lose many good people with one stroke. People who once thought of trying their future with the army now might say: For what? Let me leave now. Over 3 years we dismissed more than 5,000 career army personnel. The other field where we made cuts was training, and when this did not suffice we cut stocks and finally reached the field of investments in development and replenishment. The cuts affected all areas, because in the final analysis an army must reach a balance among all the components.

[*Ma'ariv*] The public is tired of the issue of alternatives; can you say the IDF already possesses weapons that are part of these alternatives and that will significantly influence the future battlefield?

[Shomron] It is not alternatives, but an alternative, in whose framework there are different projects to be implemented according to an order of priorities. Approximately 30-40 percent of them require only the money for immediate production. These are systems that will have an effect this year or maybe in 2 years. The rest of the projects are in the final stage of development and their impact will be felt in 3-4 years.

[*Ma'ariv*] Are there weapons that have already been absorbed?

[Shomron] Certainly, although up to now—until the decision on the Lavi—we had to absorb them in small quantities. Now we will increase the rate of absorption in order for them to have a real impact on the battlefield.

[*Ma'ariv*] Is there any decision regarding the Saar-5's and the submarines for the Navy?

[Shomron] Within approximately 1 and 1/2 months we will complete the multiyear plan and we will know then. I am not sure that the total sum approved for the Navy's order of battle will be approved this time, but we will certainly have to invest in the Navy.

[*Ma'ariv*] Is not the Saar-5 the Navy's Lavi?

[Shomron] No. The Saar-5 will be the Navy's main and most advanced vessel. The Lavi is similar to the F-16 and had we continued producing it in 7 years we would have had a 10-year-old F-16 called the Lavi.[Passage omitted]

[*Ma'ariv*] Let us turn to regional issues. Is Syria behind the terrorist activity in Lebanon?

[Shomron] If you are referring to the Mount Hermon incident then this was an organization influenced by Syria. Whoever passes through the eastern sector of southern Lebanon, the part linking the Al-Biqa' and Fatahland, does so under Syrian supervision. There can be no action without Syrian blessing. Regarding other activities, occasionally Syria is behind them. I am not speaking about the Syrians in Damascus, but elements in the Syrian forces in Lebanon.

[*Ma'ariv*] There was criticism following the recent Air Force attack in Lebanon. Some people claim this kind of operation is more harmful than helpful.

[Shomron] Previously it was claimed that we were missing, now the accusation is that we are hitting too much. These kinds of accusations will continue forever. We hit them before they hit us. This is part of the ongoing war against terrorism. It also has indirect significance. In southern Lebanon we also face Amal, whose interest is to maintain calm in the area so that the inhabitants remain and do not run away. Every attack on the Palestinians, especially when it is successful, is a hint to Amal that we can also hit it but are not doing so and not accidentally. So this is the stick for the Palestinians and the carrot for Amal.

[*Ma'ariv*] To end on a personal note, we know you prepared for your post for a long time, that you came prepared. Does it now appear to you that there are things you would have liked to accomplish and cannot?

[Shomron] There are no surprises for me. I reached the post of chief of staff after being chief corps officer, division commander, chief command officer, commander of the field armies, and deputy chief of staff. I am familiar with the system and am aware of the constraints. Perhaps this is the reason the Lavi issue was so important for me, because I want to make it possible to implement most of the things I want done. It will not happen at once; we need perseverence, obstinacy, and patience. In my opinion it is possible to carry out most of the things I want and intend to do.

King Husayn Returns From Visit to Syria

JN241754 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland this evening following a short working visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. His Majesty King Husayn and the delegation accompanying him had arrived in Latakia at 1200 today. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad led those who welcomed his majesty at the Latakia airport. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, ministers, and the Latakia governor also welcomed the king upon arrival.

At the end of the welcoming ceremonies, His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad headed for the presidential palace where they held an expanded meeting. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah attended the meeting for Jordan. On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm.

Afterward, His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad held a closed meeting. During the meeting, they discussed developments in Arab and international arenas, issues of mutual interest, and ways to achieve Arab solidarity, which Jordan is seeking, especially during the difficult circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad hosted a luncheon banquet in honor of His Majesty King Husayn. The banquet was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah. Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, and a number of senior officials also attended the banquet.

Upon his return to Amman this evening, his majesty was welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, his majesty's personal adviser; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; the chief of the Royal Household; and the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah returned with his majesty the king.

Filali Gives Statement, Leaves for Turkey

JN231133 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Amman—Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, has lauded His Majesty King Husyan's efforts to resolve Arab differences and to bring about Arab solidarity to confront the dangers threatening the Arab nation.

In a statement to PETRA-JNA today prior to his departure from Amman for Turkey, Filali stated that he was optimistic that the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman in November will achieve its national aims and will be successful. He said that the choice of Amman as a venue for the summit confirms Jordan's leading role in serving Arab causes. Filali stated that this was a continuation of Jordan's role of more than 1 year, under King Husayn's leadership, in resolving inter-Arab differences. He emphasized King Husayn's wide experience in this regard, saying that as usual his majesty will carry out his pan-Arab role perfectly.

Contacts Seek To Overcome Travel Obstacles

JN230900 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Sep 87 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Jordanian authorities are currently holding contacts with the Joint Jordanian-Israeli Armistice Commission in an effort to overcome obstacles placed by the Israeli authorities on the travel of Palestinians across the Jordan River bridges, Mr. Muhammad al-'Udwan, director of the Inspection and Follow-up Department at the Ministry of Interior, announced Tuesday. Mr. al-'Udwan said that contacts in this respect were being made upon directives from His Majesty King Husayn in the hope of maintaining open bridges with the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to foil Israel's attempts to evict the Palestinians from their homeland.

Mr. al-'Udwan said the Israeli authorities have been obstructing the travel of Palestinian people across the bridges to the East Bank. The Israelis are refusing to recognise spouses of Palestinians living on the West Bank and Gaza and so denying them the right to be included in the family re-union programme, he said.

Israel is also refusing to allow children above five years of age to cross into the occupied territory without a separate permit and a separate passport, he added. All these measures, Mr. al-'Udwan said, are bound to create more difficulties for the Arab population and their relatives and families and also visitors to the occupied territories.

In addition, he said, the Israeli authorities have been placing conditions on certain groups of Arab people upon leaving the West Bank, like asking them not to return home before the elapse of certain periods of time. Those under 26 years of age leaving the West Bank for the East Bank are not allowed to return home before the elapse of nine months, Mr. al-'Udwan said.

The Israeli authorities have recently introduced a new measure by which Arabs from the occupied lands working abroad should return home and personally submit request for renewing permits of travel abroad. This measure adds to the burdens of the Arab population, Mr. al-'Udwan noted. Earlier, the Israeli authorities used to renew such permits for three years without requesting the personal presence of the applicant, he said.

He said the Israeli authorities had been trying to coerce some people and pressure them to collaborate with the

occupation authorities by threatening to deny them the right to return to their homes in the West Bank.

AL-RA'Y Lauds Restoration of Libya Relations

JN240743 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
24 Sep 87 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Jordan: The Vanguard and the Example"]

[Text] As part of the responsible pan-Arab moves, which Jordan spares no effort to promote and over which Jordan wishes to be a vanguard and an example, came His Majesty King Husayn's instruction to the Government to restore diplomatic relations with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The Government decision came in response to this noble pan-Arab approach.

This pioneering step is a genuine expression of Jordan's consistent adherence to the higher interest of our Arab nation. Moreover, it is a serious call for bringing relations back to normal anywhere in the Arab arena so that the awaited emergency Arab summit will be held in a healthy atmosphere. Consequently, this summit will respond to the Arab peoples' aspirations for protecting the Arab entity, restoring Arab solidarity, and consolidating the desired joint Arab action.

It is no secret that these aspirations emanate from the nation's conscience and from its sound realization of the challenges and dangers facing it. These aspirations also express a sincere desire to confront such challenges and dangers with an Arab will which will be embodied by the awaited Arab summit and also with an Arab formula which will be worked out by the Arab leaders. Such a formula will be able to effectively deal with the conflicts imposed on the Arab nation in light of a unified concept.

Jordan has expressed its willingness to host the summit. It has also stressed its determination to do its utmost to make this summit a success out of Jordan's belief in the importance of such a summit and in the fact that it is the long-awaited opportunity for Arabs to resume playing their role which has been frozen for a long time, instead of appealing to others to play a role in defense of Arab rights. Jordan is extending its hand and restoring diplomatic relations with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah out of its eagerness to pave all avenues for the desired new Arab breakthrough.

While appreciating Jordan's pan-Arab step and valuing King Husayn's noble instructions in this regard, the Arab masses can only express their strong desire that this step be an example that will bring warmth back into inter-Arab relations and which will also make the expected Arab summit capable of shouldering the huge responsibilities awaiting it.

President al-Jumayyil Delivers UN Address

NC241746 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1417 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Speech by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil at the 42d session of the UN General Assembly in New York—live relay]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] For centuries past, Lebanon has been the example of peaceful coexistence between religions, races, and cultures. It formed a pluralistic yet harmonious society devoted to the ideas of liberty and peace. Caught in the cycle of the violence that engulfed the Middle East, we ask ourselves today whether those who set out to destroy Lebanon did not ultimately intend to destroy the Lebanese experiment and its achievements in the field of human and political understanding.

Lebanon was meant to appear doomed, to remain a breeding ground for war, anarchy, and terror, in a country that itself has become a hostage. (?Citizens of this nation) were deprived of their liberty and sometimes of their lives. These innocent individuals were used as pawns in a diplomacy of horror, their lives treated cynically as punishment or reward. Our suffering was made worse by the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami, a great statesman and a man of peace. He was brutally murdered in a diabolic plot which is reminiscent of the assassination of my predecessor and brother, President Bashir al-Jumayyil. Adding to our woes, the resilience of the civilian population is now impaired by an economic crisis which is destroying the very fabric of our society. For the first time Lebanon is haunted by the specter of famine. Mr President, I remain determined, as I was 5 years ago, to pursue Lebanon's struggle for peace and the preservation of our territorial integrity, national sovereignty, unity, and independence. [Passage omitted]

Year after year the world community has heard us maintain that peace in Lebanon should not and cannot wait for the settlement of every conflict in the Middle East. Today it is imperative to go further by saying that peace in the Middle East can only begin with peace in Lebanon. Unless we restore law and order in Lebanon, there cannot and will not be peace anywhere in the region. [Passage omitted]

We firmly believe that the United Nations must approach the Middle East conflict as a whole, not just one particular aspect of the Middle East questions, but all of them together. Peace in the Middle East, Mr President, is indivisible. Peace cannot survive in one place while a war is under way in another. Nor can we allow ourselves the illusion that containing conflicts on the borders of nations is synonymous with resolving them. Lebanon again is a typical and most tragic illustration of what I mean. Truce agreements and bilateral peace accords with Israel cannot solve the Palestinian problem as long as the fate of the Palestinians living in Lebanon has not been equitably determined. Similarly, Iran's war in Lebanon must be addressed and immediately resolved in order to attain peace in the Gulf.

At this point, I would like to reiterate my support for an international conference to solve the Middle East question. The agenda of the conference, as well as its structure, should be treated as a matter of extreme urgency. Lebanon insists on being a full partner at this conference because Lebanon has major problems to discuss in defense of its interests. [Passage omitted]

For so long we have been paying the price of war not of our making. Lebanon, Mr President, is neither negotiable nor dispensable. Pending the convening of this conference, Lebanon finds itself compelled to resort once again to the Security Council. Our goal is to seek implementation of the many resolutions voted since 1978. We are referring in particular to Resolutions 425 and 426 of June 1978. Those resolutions mandate the creation of UNIFIL with the objective of confirming the withdrawal of Israel and establishing an area of peace and security in south Lebanon. Furthermore, Resolution 426 calls for the reinstatement of the 1949 general armistice agreement. There should no longer be any pretext for its implementation, since the Cairo agreement with the PLO has now been officially abrogated.

Thus, there are no longer any grounds to oppose the UN's overseeing of security arrangements on the Lebanese-Israeli frontier. Such arrangements entrusted to the (?UN force)—UNIFIL—are undoubtedly a credible guarantee of the needed stability. As this Assembly knows, UNIFIL's mandate has been redefined in Resolutions 498 and 501. A timetable of Israeli withdrawal and a joint program of activities between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Government was called for in Resolution 488 in order to promote, and I quote, the restoration of its effective authority up to the international recognized boundaries.

Other resolutions must be referred to, particularly Resolution 436 of October 1978, which calls upon all those involved in hostilities in Lebanon to put an end to acts of violence and observe scrupulously an immediate and effective cease-fire and cessation of hostilities so that internal peace and national reconciliation could be restored, based on the preservation of Lebanese unity, territorial integrity, independence, and national sovereignty. Finally, Resolutions 508 and 509 of June 1982, as well as Resolution 520, demanded the strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon under the unique and exclusive authority of the Lebanese Government exercised through the Lebanese Army in the whole of Lebanon.

In due course, the Security Council might have to meet and devise the necessary ways and means to implement the relevant resolutions. The objective must be to ensure the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and enable the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces to operate exclusively throughout Lebanon with the assistance of UNIFIL in accordance with its terms of reference.

Mr President, the failure to implement the UN resolutions has prompted the Lebanese to resist with force

continuous occupations. The General Assembly has itself recognized this right, yet we have not and shall not despair of securing these roles by appealing to international legitimacy.

The 13 years of war that we have survived have demonstrated beyond question that there is no substitute or alternative to the role of legitimate and accepted institutions. Hence, our determination to support our appeal to international legitimacy with a consolidated internal consensus of constitutional legitimacy. Indeed, all past attempts to bypass the legitimate forces and seek internal and external security arrangements with illegal militias ended in tragic failure. External powers have come up against the same realities in Lebanon. Their attempts to deal with forces outside the recognized legal institutions of the state have not only resulted in similar failure, but compounded their problems.

The agony of state power, of sovereignty unable to exercise full authority, is coming to an end. People are increasingly disenchanted with the divisive sectarian forces which have brought Lebanon to the threshold of partition or annexation. (?Equitable) central government, even if challenged by various partitionists and their foreign aspirants, remains the only rallying point for the vast majority of the Lebanese, whatever their religious community.

Mr President, in this my last year in office, I am determined to bring to its conclusion a constitutional reform which should reunite the Lebanese and enable us all to save our country, secure our independence, and exericse our national sovereignty. Mr President, I am calling on the international community, and particularly on the great powers, to help Lebanon disentangle itself from violence [words indistinct] among the combatants. In so doing, it would take the essential step, in conjunction with an international conference, toward Middle East peace.

My appeal to the international community is as much in the interest of regional peace as it is in the interest of Lebanon. If my call is not heeded, let me tell you, Mr President, where Lebanon is heading. It is on its way toward an economic disaster, the first phase of which we are already experiencing. The next phase is likely to be a violent upheaval that will transform not only our liberal economic system, but also the democratic political system on which it is based. When this happens, many of the solutions that now seem appropriate will become obsolete. Extremism of all sorts will grow in this fertile ground of despair and the spirit of moderation will be extinguished. The demands for sectarian partition, which now exist as contingent facts, in time of war will increase, creating havoc in the existing state system of the Middle East. Anarchy, unchecked by the hope of order and stability, will encourage terrorism and lead to more kidnappings, more hostage-taking, more alienation from rational policies, and a wider schism between the Middle East and rest of the world.

I have not undertaken this exposition merely to define the problem; I am here today to identify a course of action which we must undertake together. I am not making our crisis international, for it is already international because it is regional. I am trying to define the problem to contain it and to bring it to an end. This course of action begins with a program of organic and structural reforms which will be initiated through the constitutional process. Thus, we would be responding to the ever-growing conviction that no solution to our crisis can or should be sought outside the constitutional process of a democratic system. A reformed constitution must enable the various Lebanese communities to fulfill an effective and extensive partnership in government.

Executive powers exercised through the Council of Ministers must be genuinely representative of each and all. The changes and needs of the Lebanese society, as it has evolved, must be accommodated in a manner that will shield us against external exploitations in our domestic affairs. Through rigorous redefinition of powers and power-sharing, any possibilities of hegemony by any group over the others should be eliminated. Although the war was not started by the demand for reforms, I am convinced it will not end without them. A new government entrusted with this mission shall be formed. This government will help disarm the militias and direct, strengthen, and restructure the Armed Forces to extend legal authority over the land.

Mr President, it's Lebanon's historic mission and geopolitical imperative that a dialogue between Islam and Christianity should be restored and intensified in our land and among our people, for only in Lebanon and Lebanon alone does this dialogue assume its existential dimension, a conviviality that will serve the cause of international understanding.

Islam today is at an important crossroads. Islam should not be viewed exclusively in terms of so-called Islamic fundamentalism, expressing itself in violence. There is a rebirth of Islam which cannot be understood from the outside abstractly. It can neither be approached by fear nor with flattery, but through full partnership in life, culture, and government. Lebanon's destiny is to meet this challenge. Our survival, as well as world peace, will depend on the success of the response. Mr President, our principal partner in this approach should be Syria, with whom relations have often been strained since our emergence as an independent state. But there is no reason for these problems between our two countries to continue. Our relations should be normalized. Lebanon is an independent and sovereign country, part of the Arab world, and Syria is our closest neighbor in the Arab community. Consequently, relations between Lebanon and Syria should not only be normal, they should be distinctive and characterized by friendship and cooperation as befits neighbors elsewhere.

It is in the best interest of both Lebanon and Syria to restore this positive relationship as soon as possible. The

principles for an agreement between Lebanon and Syria have been set within the perimeters of its sovereignty and independence. Lebanon is ready to go a long way to establish the closest relations with Syria. In saying this, I have the deepest interests of both Lebanon and Syria.

Syria's military presence in Lebanon since 1976 has extended to over 60 percent of our territory. This has given Syria an overwhelming influence in Lebanon, which has not served the better interests of either country. Through its policy of alliances with Lebanese parties and personalities, Syria has generated friendships but also enmities. Also regionally and internationally Syria is perceived as a vital factor in Lebanese affairs. It has been established that there cannot be a Syrian solution to the Lebanese question, but I hasten to add that there is no solution to the Lebanese question without Syria. Specific convenants and precepts govern our inter-Arab relations. Lebanon and Syria must see to it that they be respected to the letter, particularly in matters of mutual security and strategic interests. The withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon should and will happen in the context of those convenants.

Mr President, new relationships should be developed with the Palestinian Liberation Organization. A new Lebanon cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of all. Lebanon will not tolerate on its territory an armed group of any kind; only the legitimate organs of the state or (?those) forces operating in Lebanon at the request of the Lebanese Government will be permitted to carry arms. Lebanon is prepared to grant the PLO a presence on its soil for the peaceful promotion of the cause of the Palestinian people to which Lebanon is committed. In the context of the Arab League, Lebanon will coordinate policies relating to the rights of the Palestinian people. Such policies, however, should not violate law and order in our country, nor lead to Palestinian implementation [as heard] in Lebanon. Vigorous work requiring close coordination will have to be undertaken, both to repair the damage done to Lebanese-Palestinian relations and to build new and enduring ties.

Finally, the unlearned lessons of the Palestinians must not be repeated by others. Iran must be militarily disentangled from Lebanon. Iran's image in the region and in the world has not been enhanced as a result of its policies in Lebanon or by the acts of violence undertaken by its followers in my country. In fact, Iran's actions and continuous rejection of Resolution 425 and other Security Council resolutions will further endanger the Lebanese in the south. All Iranians who are in Lebanon by virtue of Iran's self-bestowed military, ideological commitments and without permission of the Lebanese Government should leave as soon as possible. Yet, Iran has important religious, cultural, and commercial links with Lebanon. These links can be encouraged and strengthened by agreement between the two countries in accordance with the established norms of cooperation among independent and peaceful states.

Mr President, if I have digressed into what appears to be strictly internal affairs, it is because, as I stated earlier, peace in Lebanon can only be attained by an encounter between the national and the international. The Lebanese were not free to choose between war and peace. If international peace and security is to be protected against the consequences of continuous chaos, violence, and terror in Lebanon, the world community must secure for the Lebanese the freedom to choose. [Passage omitted]

Mr President, in years past my country was proud to be a haven for peace, a link between cultures; now it has become a haven for terror, a link between wars. But it remains my country and no sacrifice is too great in its defense. Thank you. [Applause]

Al-Huss Reacts to Al-Jumayyil UN Speech

NC251302 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss reacted today to President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil's speech yesterday to the UN General Assembly in which he defined the government's position on the situation in Lebanon. Al-Huss referred specifically to the president's remarks on the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon. [Passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Huss said that the Lebanese Government regards the continued presence and deployment of the Syrian Arab forces as essential to ensuring the security and stability of wide areas of Lebanon and to assisting the legitimate Lebanese forces, who have been exhausted by the crisis, in restoring central government authority over all parts of Lebanon.

He continued: The Syrian forces' mission can be terminated only as a result of a national consensus reached by a Lebanese Government decision, which would be made when it is proven that these forces have accomplished their mission and are no longer needed. The Syrian leadership, he said, has repeatedly affirmed its commitment to this position.

He stated that President al-Jumayyil's remarks about the Israeli occupation truly reflect a national consensus. He said: As acting prime minister and foreign minister, I would like to affirm the Lebanese Government's approval of what President al-Jumayyil stated regarding the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory and Lebanon's adherence to UN Security Council Resolution 425 and subsequent resolutions calling for immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory up to internationally-recognized borders. Lebanon insists that the United Nations take suitable and effective measures to force Israel to stop its savage aggressions against Lebanon, which result in great human losses among Lebanese and Palestinian civilians.

Dr al-Huss criticized what he termed President al-Jumayyil's unilateral exposition of views at the UN General Assembly with regard to constitutional reforms

without prior consultation with the prime minister and the foreign minister. He said: It is necessary to dot the i's by providing some clarification. By outlining ideas before the UN General Assembly without first consulting the prime minister and the foreign minister, President al-Jumayyil acted inconsistently in terms of his call for political reforms and the adoption of an equitable formula for government sharing. In so doing he violated a common custom, thus reevaling a gap between words and actions.

Blast at SSNP Headquarters Causes Casualties

NC250938 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] An explosion occurred in the building housing the headquarters of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] in Shtawrah at noon yesterday. The blast left six persons either dead or wounded, including two Syrians. Reports indicate that the explosion resulted from a blast in an ammunition dump in a center belonging to 'Isam al-Mahayri of the SSNP Emergency Command.

Reportage on Visit by Jordan's King Husayn

Arrives at Latakia

JN241140 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived in Latakia at 1215 today on a working visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received him at Latakia airport. He was also received at the plane's ramp by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm.

After shaking hands with the ministers, the Latakia branch secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the Latakia governor, his majesty the king, together with President Hafiz al-Asad, headed for the presidential palace in Latakia. They immediately held a meeting which was attended by Khaddam, Al-Kasm, and the delegation accompanying his majesty which comprises Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah. The president and his majesty the king then held a closed meeting at 1330.

To Discuss Arab Summit

JN241310 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Latakia suddenly today on a working visit to Syria. He was met at Latakia airport by President Hafiz al-Asad, who will preside over the closing ceremony of the 10th Mediterranean Games tomorrow. [Passage omitted]

The Jordanian news agency, PETRA, reported that the purpose of King Husayn's surprise visit is to hold talks with President al-Asad on developments in the Gulf war, the situation in the Middle East, and the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Amman on 8 November.

It is understood that, during their meeting in Tunis last Sunday, the Arab foreign ministers agreed to hold the extraordinary summit in Amman, although they disagreed on the agenda. The Syrian foreign minister affirmed that the extraordinary summit should be devoted to discussing basic issues—foremost being the Arab-Israeli conflict and the central Arab issue, the Palestinian question.

Minister al-Shar' said: Giving the Iraq-Iran war priority over the Arab- Israeli conflict is a serious development in light of the fact that the Arab nation is threatened now and will be in the future by the Zionist enemy.

In the meantime, it has been reported that during a meeting of the Saudi Cabinet, King Fahd affirmed that the Palestinian question and the Lebanese issue will be given special attention at the next summit. The Saudi king's statements were received with great satisfaction in Syria. Still, it has been learned that Syria will not take part in the Amman extraordinary summit unless the agenda is amended in line with the Arab nation's basic interests.

Here lies the importance of the talks taking place today between the Jordanian monarch, who will hold the next summit, and President Hafiz al-Asad. The two leaders began a closed meeting a short while ago. [Passage omitted]

Holds Closed Meeting With Al-Asad

JN241535 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Latakia—His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held a closed meeting at the presidential palace in Latakia this afternoon. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf and developments in the Arab arena, in addition to issues of mutual interest.

His Excellency President al-Asad hosted a luncheon banquet in honor of His Majesty King Husayn. It was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah. It was also attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, and a number of senior officials.

His Majesty King Husayn and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Latakia at 1200 today on a working visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad led those who welcomed his majesty the king. Also participating in the welcome were Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the ministers, and the Latakia governor.

After the welcome ceremony, His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad headed for the presidential palace in Latakia where they held an expanded meeting attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah. It was attended on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm.

Departs Following Talks

JN241822 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Damascus, 24 Sep (SANA)—His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan left at 1815 today following a working visit to Syria, during which he held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad. The talks were conducted in three sessions; the first session was attended by the delegates of both countries and the second and third sessions were closed meetings.

The king was seen off at Latakia airport by President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, and several ministers.

Faruq al-Shar' Leaves for UN General Assembly

JN241245 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has left Damascus for New York to lead the Syrian delegation to the meetings of the UN General Assembly's 42d session.

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Defense Minister

PM241611 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 25 Sep 87 pp 28-29

[Interview with General Mustafa Talas, defense minister, by 'Isam Abazah in Damascus; date not given]

[Text]*Al-Hawadith*: The Syrian Arab Army's 42d anniversary, which you recently celebrated, prompts us to ask about the stages covered with regard to the Army's organization, training, and arms.

Gen Talas: This anniversary was coupled with a new victory reflected in our country's entry into the space age which gives us more strength and impregnability. Before that, the October War was an important turning point which proved the Arab fighters' ability, courage, and resourcefulness in handling the most complex and sophisticated weapons. Under the guidance of leader Al-Asad, we have continued to build our Armed Forces on foundations matching the level of the best armies in the world, so much so that we now hear the enemy expressing fear and concern at the developments that have occurred in our Armed Forces.

This fear, which conceals aggressive intentions under the cover of the strategic alliance with the United States, is also an attempt to undermine our determination to develop so that we may remain weak, helpless, and without enough power to defend ourselves, liberate our territory, and contribute to the promotion of a just peace acceptable to free men. What we want to emphasize most on this occasion is that the October spirit, which is so deep in our hearts, will prevail and will guide our steps in meeting challenges and restoring our usurped rights in the manifestation of President al-Asad's words: "We will not forfeit a single inch of our territory even if we have to fight a hundred wars."

Al-Hawadith: According to some military strategists, the June 1967 defeat was due to the Egyptian Army's involvement in the Yemen war. How do you assess the Syrian Army's entry into Lebanon and how has that affected its infrastructure and strength?

Gen Talas: When our country answered the call of Arab brotherhood and a part of our Armed Forces entered Lebanon, our aim was to put an end to the fratricide in fraternal Lebanon and to restore its unity and strength. Our forces have indeed managed to stop the infighting and we have begun preparing the ground for the restoration of normal conditions in Lebanon. This, however, has displeased the imperialists and Zionists who were behind what happened to Lebanon in the first place. They wanted that Arab country to be a center and a conduit for the implementation of aggressive and expansionist designs, relying in doing so on hirelings and agents. When our country successfully confronted that attempt and, with sacrifice and devotion, resisted the plot hatched against Lebanon, the Israeli invasion took place under the "peace in Galilee" pretext.

The main aim in fact was to erase the October war gains and force the Arab nation to join the Camp David procession, which had come to a halt. The enemy thought he could achieve his objectives in a matter of days or weeks, but he soon slipped into a deep quagmire and began to pay for his foolishness and evil spirit. He still faces attrition through the blows dealt him by the Lebanese national resistance, which has emerged as a mighty force on the struggle scene and as a splendid living symbol and manifestation of the Arab nation's will. We support and aid this heroic resistance along the path of liberation which is also the path of Lebanon's unity and salvation. Everyone, even those in the Zionist entity, can now see that the crack inflicted on that entity in the October War has widened and deepened.

It is in this light that we understand the "terrorism" claims made by enemy camps to harm the growing and escalating legitimate national and pan-Arab struggle. President Hafiz al-Asad was clear and firm on this matter when he called for an international conference to draw the line between struggle for liberation as a legitimate right of nations under occupation and international terrorism as a method we condemn and deplore, especially when it harms civilians and innocent people. President al-Asad's call had a resounding response from around the world, particularly from the peace-loving countries, but not from those who make these charges and who, as facts and experience show, harbor and rely on terrorism.

Al-Hawadith: What is your part in freeing the foreign hostages in Lebanon, how responsive has Iran—whose fighters were held responsible for taking hostages—been, and what is the truth about the release of American reporter Charles Glass?

Gen Talas: President Hafiz al-Asad's permanent instructions are that we should seek to free the hostages by all available means because we are against that method of retaliation whatever the justifications. Iran understands this fact well and it cooperates to an acceptable level. We will do everything we can to ensure the release of the hostages, not to please or displease anyone in particular, but because we believe that this method is wrong and futile. As regards the American journalist Glass, we were the ones who worked for his release, but our media were too modest and so his release appeared as if it were a fortuitous escape from captivity. Anyway, everything is known now.

Al-Hawadith: The deployment of Syrian forces in West Beirut under the security plan appeared to be losing its effectiveness when it stopped short of the neighboring areas of tension which obstruct the security process and the efforts made to promote the desired accord. Are there red lines for you, as some have claimed?

Gen Talas: Our forces' entry into Lebanon was in response to the pan-Arab call of duty. Some units of our forces were recently deployed in West Beirut after widespread fratricide. Our forces have succeeded in restoring security and reassurance. Fundamentally, there are no red, green, or blue lines for us, but we consult with the leaders of the Unification and Liberation Front in the interest of Lebanon and the unity of its people. When we are asked to deploy west, east, or anywhere else in the interest of Lebanon, we will do so regardless of any other considerations because our mission is a rescue mission which, we believe, is supported and understood by all honest and free men in the world.

Al-Hawadith: There is a buildup of fleets and warships in the Arab Gulf. How do you view these concentrations, and, in view of the recent escalation, do you expect them to assume greater dimensions?

Gen Talas: When the imperialists mass their fleets and armies in any part of the Arab homeland it means, in our opinion, that they harbor evil and aggressive intentions and that they want to implement another phase of their perpetual designs to subjugate the region and bring it under their control. They have tried to sow the seed of enmity toward the Soviet Union and have sought to revive the spirit of "McCarthyism" in some Arab areas, but the Soviets have proved, in difficult and fateful cirucmstances and at international forums, that they are the loyal friends of the cause of Arab liberation. We have fought with their arms in repulsing aggression and we have relied on their firm stands in international circles in support of our rights. Frustrated, imperialism ignited the Iraq-Iran war, which we condemned and warned against from the very beginning.

Al-Hawadith: Under current Arab circumstances, if a war breaks out between Syria and Israel, would Syria stand alone? Would you expect such a development to end the Gulf war and lead to Iraq or Iran joining the Syrian front?

Gen Talas: Leader al-Asad has frequently emphasized that Syria believes in a just and lasting peace based on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights, and establishment of a Palestinian independent state on their soil. What we are seeing now is more enemy expansion and the occupation of more Arab territory with the intention to annex the Arab land previously occupied. The Zionist officials deny our Palestinian Arab people every right and they reject an international peace conference unless it is based on their own viewpoint which is recognition of the Zionist racist regime. In rejecting humiliation and occupation we express the Arab nation's will and determination to reject invasion and occupation. If war is imposed on us we will certainly not be alone in the battle. We have a strong ally and a friend, namely the Soviet Union, which strengthens our steadfastness and gives us the power to defeat aggression.

Al-Hawadith: In the event of aggression outside Syrian borders, against the Syrian forces in Al-Biqa' for example, would the Arab [Syrian]-Soviet treaty apply beyond the borders?

Gen Talas: We are strong enough to repulse any aggression, as we have proved several times in the past. The Syrian forces' determination is stronger than aggression and the Soviet friend's arm is long enough to deter it. Nothing will ever scare us. They have tried all weapons of destruction and used multinational fleets but we have fought them gloriously until they were defeated and we will always defeat them because we are defending our rights.

Al-Hawadith: How do you assess the Soviet-Syrian joint spaceflight and what are the future prospects in this field?

Gen Talas: Every step taken by Al-Asad's Syria stems from its faith in the need for a strategic balance with the enemy at all levels. Our country has made long strides in that respect. The spaceflight was a magnificent step which further strengthened Syria's Arab and international positions, enhanced its humanitarian role, opened new horizons in the conquest of space, and consequently enabled the economy to benefit from space research and studies which are very important for construction, the development of resources, and the growth of various aspects of the national economy. The space venture in which pioneer astronauts Muhammad Faris and Munir Habib, who have been highly honored by Syria, participated was a beginning which achieved a lot scientifically, economically, and socially, not to mention the fact that it marked our entry into the space age. We will move to other stages in cooperation with the Soviet friends who give us aid and strength out of their faith in the imperative victory of nations fighting for their freedom and for a just peace.

Al-Hawadith: General, there is more to your personality than the military side. You are interested in literature, poetry, flowers, and friendships in scientific and cultural circles, among other things. To what extent does this affect your character as a military commander and how do you find the time for all these activities?

Gen Talas: Culture, science, and knowledge are general prerequisites for building strong armies. We, in Al-Asad's Army, pay much attention to that from the early stages of college and military education. That is why we find so many intellectuals in our Army. As for me, I have been interested in culture, knowledge, and science since I was a child, which definitely leads to diverse contacts and friendships at all levels. If some mistakenly believe

that this affects military performance, the truth is that it enriches the military personality and deepens and expands its intellectual horizons and knowledge. That leaves just one point, which is that a military commander who is so inclined must sacrifice his sleep and rest in order to fulfill his scientific hobbies and interests. There can be no doubt that education and culture are an important and essential factor in building strength and securing victory.

Minister Returns from Sudan, Makes Statement

JN221125 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Text] 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Damascus after participating in the ceremony held by the Sudanese State Council and the Sudanese Government at the Friendship Palace Hall in Khartoum to honor Syria and its people on the occasion of completing the distribution of assistance extended by the Syrian Arab people to the fraternal Sudanese people. The ceremony was attended by Ahmad al-Mirghani, State Council chairman; State Council members; ministers; members of the Constituent Assembly; leaders of trade unions; and a large gathering of Sudanese citizens.

Speakers at the ceremony hailed the struggling Syrian people and their heroic leader President Hafiz al-Asad and praised their pan-Arab stand which confirms the depth of the Syrian Arab people's ties with and sincere fraternal feeling toward the Sudanese people.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Al-Na'ib made a speech in which he conveyed Al-Asad's greetings and wishes to Sudan for achieving further gains, including the goals for which their blessed uprising against the agent and autocratic regime was established. He also conveyed the greetings of Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and chief of the higher popular committee to support the Sudanese Arab people in their march to overcome the problems which were brought about by the Numayri regime and to take their natural role in the struggle march of our Arab nation in the service of its aims and fateful issues.

Al-Na'ib touched on the situation in Lebanon. He affirmed that Syria would continue to exert efforts to unite Lebanon and its people and to realize the national reconciliation among its sons and liberate its land. He also affirmed Syria's commitment to the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's rights despite the deviationists' attempts to join the capitulatory settlements.

Al-Na'ib was received by Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council. Al-Na'ib also conveyed Al-Asad's greetings to Al-Mirghani, who asked him to convey his greetings and the Sudanese people's greetings to President al-Asad.

Al-Na'ib met with Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the State Council; Mubarak al-Mahdi, minister of industry and acting foreign minister; Dr Nasir al-Sa'id, secretary general of the Islamic Socialist Party; and a number of Sudanese officials. He exchanged with them views on the current situation in the Arab and international arenas, as well as relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples. They all praised Syria's vanguard role and the wisdom of its outstanding leader President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting all conspiracies and defending the fateful issues of the arab nation.

USSR Ambassador Explains Nuclear Arms Agreement

JN241834 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Damascus, 24 Sep (SANA)—Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Aleksandr Dzasokhov has stressed the historical importance of the Soviet-U.S. agreement on removing short-range and intermediate nuclear missiles and the international repercussions of this agreement. He expressed his country's gratitude for the Syrian position on this agreement as voiced by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'—a position that reaffirms Syria's support for a world free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. In an interview with SANA today, the Soviet ambassador elaborately explained the Soviet leadership's comprehensive concept of international security.

Alluding to the joint Syrian-Soviet statement issued after President Hafiz al-Asad's official and cordial visit to the USSR last April, in which the two countries affirmed that comprehensive security for every country is the same and requires the elimination of stockpiles of nuclear weapons, the ambassador noted that the concept of comprehensive security is being formulated with the active participation of the friends of the USSR, such as the Syrian Arab Republic.

Answering a question on the significance of this agreement in terms of solving regional disputes and dealing with world development problems, the Soviet ambassador in Damascus said that international detente is capable of creating more suitable bases for settling regional disputes. He also said that disarmament will spare tremendous financial and material resources, which will be a source of assistance to developing countries.

Councluding, the USSR ambassador said that comprehensive security guarantees individual security and hoped that this idea will be developed and adopted by all peoples and countries.

Damascus Radio Blames U.S. for Gulf Tension

JN231236 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the past 48 hours, the United States introduced a new element of tension into the Gulf when it moved from the stage of intensifying its military presence and

threatening to take military action to a more serious stage, which is fraught with danger, adventurism, and provocation; a stage where the situation has gone from bad to worse. The U.S. military forces in the Gulf have moved from the stage of muscle-flexing to the stage of actually opening fire on and interfering with ships on the high seas and international waterways.

What is important here are not the excuses which U.S. officials are making for this serious escalation. These excuses have no meaning and cannot be verified, especially since the record of certain U.S. circles, which are against international detente and are associated with arms and hostile activities against national liberation movements, is full of instances which call for suspicion and caution. It is also full of false excuses which have been used as justifications for aggressions and provocations. As we said, what is important are not the excuses which are presented by the U.S. side, but the fact that the U.S. Government has aggravated the situation in the Gulf to a very serious point, which is neither harmonious with the general trend of international relations these days nor with the U.S. Administration's declaration about its desire to help establish secure and stable conditions and to guarantee the freedom of navigation.

Any miscalculation or even human error in this sitaution, where forces are keeping their fingers on rifle triggers and missile buttons, could lead to grave consequences and developments which may not have been taken into account by those who have planned and organized this game of playing with fire near the powder keg.

Some of those who bear the responsibility of directing U.S. moves in the Gulf and the region think that deploying U.S. soldiers thousands of kilometers away from U.S. territory will constitute pressure on a certain state in the area and a justification for moving in the United Nations to exploit the Gulf situation to reap fruits coveted for a long time by the United States. They have not merely embarked on a dangerous game of playing with fire, but have led U.S. policy toward a rough and uncomfortable course. Provocation does not lead to persuasion, but gradually draws reactions which no one knows beforehand how far they can go, the consequences that could result from them, or the extent to which the United States will find itself involved—and the United States has not yet forgotten the tragedy of its embroilment in Vietnam.

Peoples do not fear U.S. fleets or threats emanating from the enemies of detente and justice. The age in which a state could impose its will upon another state or upon the international community with gunboats has gone for good. It is better for all those who are concerned about the situation in the Gulf and the region to resort to dialogue and not to arms and to strive to find just solutions and not to impose one's will on others.

It is also useful for some of the hotheads in Washington to remember that the area where the sound of U.S. gunfire was heard is not part of U.S. territory or territorial waters. Such an area has special conditions that do not allow the United States to claim the area in the interest of U.S. security or a U.S. protectorate. They should remember that there are powers very close to the area that will not stand idly by in the face of serious developments that could threaten its peace and security.

AL-BA'TH Views U.S.-Israeli Collaboration

PM241321 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
14 Sep 87 p 2

[Jabbarah al-Barghuthi article: "Malicious Intentions Behind U.S. Support for Israel"]

[Text]The United States has increased its aid to the Zionist entity after fabricating an excuse which allowed it to take such a step. The U.S. Administration claims that the increase in military and material aid to Israel is compensation for the Zionist Lavi fighter plane being taken out of production. The whole world knows that the funds, experts, and equipment for the Lavi fighter were all American. So the project for an Israeli-made aircraft was really for a U.S. aircraft being assembled inside Israel.

All that happened was that Israel came out of the Lavi game with a new U.S. commitment worth $400 million a year and the U.S. Administration deliberately avoided seeking the approval of the U.S. taxpayer when it claimed that the new aid to Israel is compensation for the above-mentioned plane. The United States was not content with this aid. The White House promised to send the Zionist army 75 of the most sophisticated planes and also promised to involve Israel in the manufacture of this type of U.S. aircraft. This is how Israel gained money and weapons from the Lavi game in addition to deluding and leading the U.S. people astray in the interests of the Zionist entity. At the same time, the U.S. Administration claims that it is eager for peace and manipulates the Arab mind by using deceptive means to enter the Arab seas from all directions.

If the United States has promised all this to the Zionists, then what need is there for a large Zionist military delegation in Washington? There is no doubt that the military discussions do not cover the shipments of weapons requested by the Zionist army, even though that is the declared aspect of the Zionist military delegation's mission. The truth of the matter is that there is an undeclared aspect to U.S.-Zionist military meetings, as the terrorist Ariel Sharon previously confirmed. The United States, after it has swamped the seas and most of the Arab land with its fleets and interventionist forces, urgently needs to hastily coordinate matters with the Zionist military.

The U.S. Administration has got us used to its timing of its military coordination with the Zionists to coincide with sinister preparations in the region as a whole. The U.S. need for Israel is equal to Israel's need for the United States, as stipulated in the strategic alliance agreement between them, in the first and second clauses. Since the United States has placed its interventionist forces in a state of alert and readiness then Israel must

accordingly do the same, which has been confirmed by the joint exercises between the two allies and the U.S. "Bright Star" exercises on Egyptian territory. So the new U.S. military assistance to Israel is a kind of bribe which Washington is accustomed to giving the Zionists as the price for duties entrusted to them prior to implementation.

Afghanistan

Pakistan Given Protest on Airspace Violation

LD241519 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Kabul, 24 Sep (*Bakhtar*)—The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was yesterday summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The following note of protest was then delivered to him by the director of the First Political Department:

In accordance with a report from DRA security authorities, on 2-3 September at 1940 two Pakistani jet aircraft carried out reconnaissance flights for 2 minutes at a high altitude within DRA airspace. The flights were carried out from north to south as far as Landa-Ghar [as received] post in Shawiya [as received] region until the aircraft then turned back.

On 14-15 September, Pakistan launched heavy artillery fire from the Mali Keli [as received] region in Parachinar against Karkari [as received] military post in Jaji-Meydan District.

The DRA Government lodges a strong protest with the Pakistani Government due to these violations carried out by Pakistani forces, violations that run contrary to accepted international norms, and requests that the Pakistani Government take the necessary measures to cease such violations as soon as possible.

The Pakistani authorities have also claimed and alleged that on 5 September, Afghan artillery forces fired several artillery shells toward Sharghali region in Khyber Agency.

The DRA authorities, following a comprehensive investigation, have pronounced these Pakistani claims as untrue and baseless and resolutely reject them. The authorities request the Government of Pakistan to stop making such baseless accusations that have no other purpose than to further exacerbate the situation in the border regions.

Wakil Views Latest Round of Geneva Talks

LD241054 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Kabul, September 23 *Bakhtar*—Following a principled policy, the DRA made serious efforts in the fourth phase of the seven round of Geneva talks for attaining a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan through talks and for the successfull completion of the process of the talks.

This was said by 'Abdul Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of foreign affairs of the DRA in New York on September 21, replying to the questions posed by a number of reporters concerning the latest Geneva talks between the DRA and Pakistan.

The delegation of the DRA displayed reasonable and logical flexibility beyond expectation.

"If our goodwill and flexibility were reciprocated by the other side, the results of the talks could have been more desirable", the foreign minister said. The key for the successful termination of the process of the talks depends on giving up stubborness for the cause of political realism in the interest of peace, security and stability in the region, the Afghan foreign minister pointed out.

The Afghan minister of foreign affairs said the two sides of talks agreed to determine a date for the subsequent round of talks throughout diplomatic channels.

"We are ready to continue the Geneva talks with the same spirit and political determination and cooperation with the UN secretary general and his envoy", he pointed out.

Najib Explains Conference Plans to Envoys

LD241901 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, today received the ambassadors of friendly countries in Kabul at the PDPA Central Committee Headquarters. He informed them about recent developments and current PDPA policy concerning preparations for convening the national PDPA conference.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of cordiality and complete understanding.

Najib Addresses Kabul Party Conference

LD242235 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Dear compatriots: As you are aware, the second conference of the Kabul city party organization was held yesterday in the hall of the Social Science Institute of the PDPA Central Committee. Its agenda concerned the implementation of the national reconciliation policy and the duties of the Kabul city party organization in this connection. It additionally concerned electing representatives to the second nationwide conference of the PDPA. Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; members and candidate members of the Politburo; and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee participated in this conference. Now we draw your attention to a summary of reports on the work of this conference.

[Begin recording] [Passage indistinct] [Unidentified speaker] Dear comrades, our party's conference today is attended by Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Comrade Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Central Committee; and [name indistinct], head of the Organization Department of the Central Committee. We sincerely welcome their participation. [applause]

Now, we are going to discuss the first article on the agenda. We ask Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA, to speak. [applause]

[Najib] Esteemed representatives, dear comrades, today we have gathered in the conference of the capital. This conference is the most important event in the political life of Kabul and our party. This conference also concludes the nation's great election campaign, which lasted more than 2 months.

Dear comrades, esteemed representatives, please accept the sincere congratulations of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo on the occasion of the commencement of the work of your conference. [applause]

I state clearly that we take part in the work of your conference with a special [word indistinct] feeling after participating in most of the conferences of the party provincial committees. The conference of the city party committee is being held at a critical moment in the life of Afghanistan. The policy of national reconciliation has been expanded further and is acquiring power. Active preparation for the nationwide party conference on the national reconciliation policy is currently under way. The truth of the invitation to the nationwide party conference enjoys a great historical [word indistinct] for the party and all our people today. Why was it necessary to hold this conference? We have traveled through most of the stages of national reconciliation. It is necessary for the theoretical and practical aspects of the new policy to develop and to be specified. The experiences achieved during its implementation should be comprehensively assessed, and the hostile definition of this policy should be foiled and abandoned. (?The new situation) naturally demands a serious approach to planning the level of party and state work. The following topics are to be discussed by the conference: the regular party duties in connection with national reconciliation and some changes in the program of action, changes in the PDPA Charter, the process of the referendum on the draft constitution, and messages to the party and people on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution. A resolution is to be approved on the consolidation of the party ranks. The policy of reconciliation of the struggle for peace [words indistinct] is firm and decisive. Not everyone [word indistinct] can follow in this path. [passage indistinct] [applause]

The party is bold enough and willing to take any decisive action. This power is given to us by our people, who demand from us the urgent establishment of peace. Wherever the people are, there is politics. The content of our policy is determined only by the interests of the people, not of [words indistinct]. The people demand peace and an end to war and fratricide. From the politicians [words indistinct]. Should he [the politician] continue the war up to the last Afghan individual or seek a [word indistinct] path from the condition of war?

We have found such a path. We desire reconciliation and the people support us. We want reconciliation and have also received support from all party members. [applause]

Dear comrades, all the results have been achieved entirely under the leadership of the PDPA during the years of the revolution. All of us can be proud of our membership in the party, which considers the interests of the people to be above everything and spares no effort for their prosperity. [applause]

We are today more powerful than at any other time. We have a principled, united nucleus of leadership, one that is progressing forward without fear and hesitation toward the great goal. Today we need unity and cohesion more than at any other time. The unity of word, action, [word indistinct], and work. [applause]

We hope and are certain that you will celebrate in a worthy manner the nationwide party conference and the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution. Thank you. [applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Keshtmand Addresses Hazarah Assembly

LD222224 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Speech by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, to the Hazarah nationality assembly at the Kabul Polytechnic Institute on 21 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of Almighty God, dear compatriots, Hazarah brothers: The first historic nationwide assembly of the Hazarah nationality has been convened at a turning point in the history of the nation. The forces of peace and war, the forces of reaction and progress are facing each other. The most valuable (?possession), for example, the lives of thousands of human beings, the future of our children and of our coming generations depend on the (?consequences) of this struggle. If internal reaction and armed aggression succeed in prolonging the war, our beloved country will be transformed into [word indistinct] and destruction, and if the aspiration for peace succeeds, we will be able to salvage the country and take it out of this [word indistinct]. Every true patriot and every sincere Muslim before every [words indistinct], and has social (?standing) should accomplish [words indistinct], for example, forget the past quarrels and unite around the banner of national reconciliation. [applause] Only by chosing unity can the people of Afghanistan achieve the right to a life of peace, security, and prosperity. The country's nationalities, tribes, and clans can prove their loyalty to the defense of the lofty interests of the people, to the traditions of their fathers and forefathers, and to the principles of the sacred religion of Islam only by uniting their forces. [applause] These traditions and Islamic teachings urge us to live in peace, respect peace, and make peace between warring sides.

Dear friends, life has put the question of peace, the methods of achieving and defending it before the proud Hazarah people, too. [applause] This question has unbreakable links with all thoughts about the future of Hazarahjat and its people. However, before answering this question, let us remember our history. Let us look at facts with new insights, which is now usual, and assess the place and role of the Hazarah people before society and before the state. [passage omitted]

The victory of the April national democratic revolution, in whose preparation and organization the true sons of the toiling people of Hazarah also took part, opened a new chapter in the history of our homeland and paved the path for passing from a centuries-old backwardness to the highway of progress, to true democracy and social prosperity. [applause] The declaration of the equality of rights of nationalities, tribes, and clans is of great importance for our country. However, in order to take the first steps to eliminate artificial inequalities created by previous regimes in the Afghan people's political, social, and economic life as well as to implement progressive revolutionary changes—changes that were welcomed with fervor by the toilers of the nation, including the oppressed people of Hazarah—we had to overcome obstacles resulting from the treacherous policies of Hafizollah Amin, who usurped power by deception in the party and state. We will never forget these bitter moments of our history, moments that have darkened the happy festival of freedom. The treacherous [word indistinct] and the bloody terror of Amin that were inflicted on the toiling people of Hazarah damaged the cause of the revolution in the land of Hazarahjat also. The party condemned the [word indistinct] to severe punishment, revealed the causes of this sin, and sought ways of putting an end to them. [applause]

The critical situation which had come about in the country was exploited by the internal and external enemies of the revolution who continued the undeclared war against the popular sovereignty. It is now many years since the imposed war mercilessly and fruitlessly began to wear down the people of Afghanistan. The reactionary circles of Iran, in collusion with the Chinese hegemonists, have made it their goal to flame the war in Hazarahjat. They are trying to take Hazarahjat away from the control of popular rule and create obstacles in realizing progressive changes in improving the life of the people. The enemies want to [words indistinct]. More than 20 armed (?bands) have infiltrated the territory of Hazarahjat. They receive weapons and ammunition from abroad. They plunder foodstuffs from the innocent, defenseless people. They carry out these acts under the slogans of religion, as if Islam was in danger or this danger emanated from Kabul. The enemies of the revolution try to exploit the traditions of the freedom-loving people of Hazarah by fanning their separatist emotions. Those who believe in this poisonous propaganda are deeply mistaken. Did our fathers desire to fight with their brother neighbors? No. They desired that peace should reign in every house of the Hazarah, Tajik, and Pashtun. [applause]

Have our poets and singers offered melodies concerning hatred and discord among the people of Afghanistan? No. They have sung about justice and goodness, friendship and mutual assistance between the peoples of various nationalities. The years that have passed have brought great experiences to our compatriots. The counterrevolution has succeeded in deceiving a great number of our compatriots, has attracted them, made them leave their fatherland, and finally trained them and sent them to shed the blood of the homeland's children. Hundreds of thousands of refugees and ordinary members of the [word indistinct] could have been able to (?believe) that the invitation from the heads of the bands [words indistinct] in whose pockets are U.S. dollars, Iranian tumans, and Pakistani rupees. For most counterrevolutionary leaders this war has been transformed into a source of collecting wealth through the tested method of plundering the Afghan people. International imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism and its partners, is trying to create obstacles in the path of our policy. Therefore, the imperialists' assistance to the extremists, including Stingers and Blowpipes, is increasing. The reactionary forces of Iran and Pakistan are creating obstacles in the path of the return of refugees to our country.

The policy of national reconciliation that has been implemented without deviation has aroused the extremists' fear and indignation. Peace will deny them losing the wide resources of money, political death, and the hatred of the people. It is in this fact that the counterrevolutionary leaders' irreconcilability is concealed. Therefore, they respond to the invitation to peace and accord with missiles.

Dear Hazarah brothers, in his opening speech to this assembly, Comrade Najib pointed out that the (?realization) of the policy of national reconciliation is the cause of all Afghan people as well as the cause of each of us. [applause] I am confident that the courageous Hazarahs, with the all-around assistance of the popular sovereignty, can in a short time transform their provinces and all the Hazarahjat to a zone of peace [applause] and put an end to the bloodshed by the extremists. The government is prepared to sign specific agreements in this regard with your representatives. [applause] The ordinary members of the bands are tired of living in caves. They desire to live and work in peace. The idea of national reconciliation accords with their wishes. However, blindly following the band leaders has still kept them in their ranks. It is requested that you, esteemed friends and brothers, begin to open and direct talks with them. Tell those that have laid down their arms about the guarantees of the popular state. The units and companies of the Afghan and Soviet Armies have been pulled out of Hazarahjat. At present the bands are fighting only against the peace-loving inhabitants. Explain to them that the Hazarahs are the masters of their own land. Then ask why and for whom the war is continuing. [applause]

The popular government has granted you the power to create organs of local self-administration. Attract the (?opposition) groups to the work of these organs on the basis of coalition. [Word indistinct] to the level of deputy governors or governors will be observed. If the words of conscience, wisdom, and truth do not move the hearts of the armed bands then take your own measures to defend the nucleus of your family. Form self-defense brigades, regiments, and units, and protect your paths and villages.

[applause] Deal shattering blows to the extremists. [applause] We will supply you with necessary materials such as weapons, ammunition, clothing, and medicine. [applause]

Very soon—that is, following the fundamental solution to the question of peace—we can engage in peaceful work for Hazarahjat's socioeconomic development. [applause] Due to the indifferent and prejudicial approach of past despotic regimes, not every one of the needs of the Hazarah people has been met; these regimes did not build even one industrial establishment in Hazarahjat. Experts say that all necessary conditions exist in Hazarahjat for the growth of a modern economy. There are sufficient natural resources, water resources, and a work force. The rough nature and the insufficient amount of land suitable for cultivation in the most difficult mountaneous regions could be [words indistinct] as geographical [word indistinct] for (?economic) backwardness. However, it should not be forgotten that the geographical situation has created unprecedentedly high quality hard work among peasants, livestock breeders, and artisans. We remember that the toiling people of Hazarah are the skilled teachers of agriculture in the mountain summits and the teachers of handicrafts. [applause]

We are confident that the significant economic assistance which will be appropriated by the state to Hazarahjat under suitable conditions will speedily change the face of this ancient land. Growth in industry and including the development of mines in the Hazarah-inhabited areas is possible and necessary. I announce with a sense of responsibility that once conditions are suitable, the party and government will immediately consider the granting of assistance to this region as one of its primary tasks. [applause]

Matters related to the revival of trade, the maintenance of raw materials for artisans and industrialists and finding markets for their products, the opening of [word indistinct] roads, air [word indistinct] all call for special attention. Meanwhile, attention to developing agriculture and livestock is also necessary. Possibilities presently exist for improving and expanding irrigation systems and granting the following forms of assistance: chemical fertilizers, sowing seeds and pesticides, livestock breeding, and the supply of veterinary services. We are prepared to place at your disposal various industrial-consumer goods from the great, generous assistance of the great friend of the Afghan people, the Soviet Union. [applause] All these matters, together with the specific proposals put forward by you, demand serious assessment.

Economic backwardness in the Hazarah-inhabited areas is coupled with cultural backwardness. No city centers, schools, or medical centers currently exist in Hazarahjat. The low level of literacy and the lack of means and possibilities have prevented the growth of the toiling people of Hazarah's traditional culture. And unfortunately, generations of Hazarah youth have remained illiterate.

Now, with the blessing of the revolution that has announced the equality of all nationalities, we are ready to realize the slogan of peace and equality. [applause] Today, everyone voices the slogan that children should be educated. We have in mind creating schools and madrassas [Islamic educational institutes] in every village and district. We will also provide conditions for education inside and outside the country for youth of the Hazarah nationality. You yourselves, however, should assist this. The popular sovereignty, which faces a decisive struggle against backwardness, is ready to spend large resources for constructing cultural and social projects in Hazarahjat. [applause] We hope that the toiling and hard-working Hazarah people will present to society thousands of Fayz Mohammads, Barat Ali Tajs [Hazarah historians], and other creative personalities with new talents. [applause] We wish to see medical establishments and especially children's health clinics established throughout the Hazarah-inhabited provinces and districts. [applause] We want to reflect the works and honors of the toiling Hazarah people in newspapers and periodicals, pamphlets, books and magazines, and on local and central radio and television. [applause] We want to introduce to all the country's nationalities and tribes the folk music of Hazarah, the drawings and painting and other blossoming arts of Hazarah. [applause] The toiling people of Hazarah should be aware of their culture and cultural inheritance and love them, attach importance to the activities of the intellectuals, and utilize the experiences of their heroic leaders in the struggle on the path of freedom and revolution. [applause]

The great portion of the toiling people of Hazarah are followers of the line of Ja'fari [Shi'ite religious sect]. The previous antipopular regimes undermined this and tried to set Shi'ite and Sunni against the principles of Islam, principles that invite Muslims to seek mutual understanding. We are prepared to organize in our country high centers of learning for Shi'ite religious leaders, including the Shi'ites of the [name indistinct] and Isma'ili sects. [applause] We are ready to (?increase) the Hazarah people's representation in the DRA's Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment and the high council of religious leaders and ulema, as well as create conditions for the participation of the Hazarah people's religious ulema in the area of Islamic culture and education. [applause] We also promise our brothers that, in the name of Almighty God and our great teacher Hazrat-e Mohammad, peace be upon him, that all these tasks will be carried out in the shortest possible time.

Recently, more than 40 million afghanis have been spent on the construction and repair of Takia Khana and mosques. Another 40 million afghanis have been given to assist the pilgrims of Karbala shrine. We will increase assistance to the [word indistinct] of Hazarah-inhabited areas, but we are waiting for your support and backing. [applause] We await this, and through joint efforts of the Shi'ite Muslims, peace will be victorious in the land of Hazarahjat. [applause]

The previous system of civil administration in Hazarahjat, which had been created by despotic regimes, featured overwhelmingly prejudicial characteristics highlighting the Hazarah people's political inequality. The people of Hazarah did not have the (?right) to send their representatives to the high organs of the legal and executive power or to independently solve the questions of their domestic affairs. The Hazarah nationality's geographical and historical characteristics were not considered. The popular power is determined to eliminate all injustices in this area. [applause] The nation's new draft constitution, on which nationwide debate continues, will consider the fact that the true popular power implements the people's sovereignty and the equality of rights at all levels of the state apparatus. In consideration of the demands of the people's representatives, the area of the Hazarah-inhabited provinces will be reassessed and new provinces where the majority of inhabitants are Hazarahs will be created. [applause] In these provinces you will be empowered to resolve your issues on the basis of democratic self-administration. [applause]

We know that the number of Hazarahs who work in the leading state organs, including in the Ministries of Defense, Internal Affairs, and Foreign Affairs, is very small. We will [word indistinct] take specific measures on the basis of justice in this sphere also. [applause] The creation of the Hazarah nationality's representation in the DRA Council of Ministers has additionally been under consideration. This will facilitate solving economic and social matters. [applause]

I would now like to discuss the urban Hazarah. They number, from the family point of view, hundreds of thousands. This is the greatest unit of the toiling people of Hazarahjat. Without them it is difficult to imagine life in Kabul and other large cities in the country. [applause] The urban Hazarah are usually engaged in hard work and low-paying jobs. From among them come a large number of teachers, doctors, engineers, scientists, and state staffers. The Central Council of Hazarah is achieving great work among them. However, this is no longer sufficient for today's conditions and should be speeded up and expanded. [applause] We invite the urban Hazarah to develop trade unions, to create self-defense units, and to help in the national reconciliation cause. [applause] The party committees support you in this.

Dear friends, you know that a few days ago the fourth phase of the seventh round of talks in Geneva between Afghanistan and Pakistan ended. We hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran reconsiders its position concerning the situation around Afghanistan. The national reconciliation policy has practically proven to all that this policy is Islamic in nature. This policy enjoys the great support of the people. [applause] Reconciliation for ceasing bloodshed and fratricide is being carried out. The principles of national reconciliation are additionally in accord with the humanitarian teachings of the holy Koran. [applause] For those who love their homeland and people, for those who think about the well-being of the people and the prosperity of the homeland, national reconciliation is the very first priority.

The UN General Assembly recently began its work and is considering the most important points of international policy.

The new proposals put forward by the Soviet leadership for creating an international security system acceptable to all—one that is reflected in an article by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, under the title "Reality and the Guarantee of Security,"—lies at the center of the world's attention. [applause] [passage omitted]

Dear Hazarah brothers, in the history of the nation we have not (?spoken) to this extent on the destiny of your people. No government has ever held such a free, democratic, and responsible discussion with you. We pledge that all the promises undertaken by the popular state will be immediately implemented as soon as the national reconciliation policy finds its way into the hearts of the Hazarah people and is reflected in its [word indistinct], thus conquering the mountains and valleys of Hazarahjat. [applause]

Brothers, let us struggle against the rough nature, against poverty, and illiteracy and against all the misfortunes that have been befallen the people, and put an end to the fratricidal war. [applause] How painful it is to see our youth soaked in blood, to hear cries, and to sit in wait for [word indistinct] and life in fear day and night. How painful it is to be separated from one's family for years and to live in poverty, without a home. How painful it is to become prey to the deception of those who oppose humanity and [word indistinct]. On the other hand, how beautiful life is in friendship and fraternity, by each other's side. [applause] [passage indistinct]

Let us find a way to establish peace and realize these aspirations, to solve our social and economic questions and learn how to live in prosperity. [applause] Peace is the only way to attain prosperity for every toiling Hazarah, with equal rights among the fraternal family of the Afghan peoples. [applause] Peace is the only way to attain the prosperity and blossoming of Hazarahjat. [applause] Peace is the only way toward the victory of our revolution and the victory of the causes of freedom, justice, and equality. [applause]

Peace be victorious in Hazarahjat and over all Afghanistan! [applause]

Bangladesh

Ershad Rules Out Declaration of Emergency

BK231235 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] President Ershad has ruled out the possibility of declaring emergency in the country or holding a midterm election and dissolution of Parliament. Addressing the

extended meeting of Jatiya Sechchasevak Party in Dhaka yesterday, the president said the government has successfully faced the situation arising out of the unprecedented floods and hence the question of declaring emergency does not arise. He said the people of the country have given their verdict to Jatiya Party to rule the country for 5 years, and hence there is no need to (?think) of midterm polls and dissolution of Parliament. The president referred to the call of gherao [besieging the parliament] given by some opposition political parties and said the people of the country have already rejected the politics of gherao, hartal [strike], and destruction because they have realized that these anti-people activities will never deliver any good to them. Therefore, the people will not allow any quarter to hinder the democratic system already established in the country. In this context, the president said none will be allowed to destroy the democratic system to achieve their political end.

Referring to the statements made by an opposition leader that in 1974, 40 countries and international organizations sent their assistance for Bangladesh, the president said this time over (?73) countries and agencies have come forward to assist the country.

President Ershad lauded the relief work of the Jatiya Party and its front organization, Jatiya Sechchasevak Party, and hoped that they would continue their efforts to mitigate the sufferings of the people till they are rehabilitated in their normal life. The Jatiya Party secretary general and minister of local government, rural development and cooperatives, Shah Moazzam Hussain, also spoke on the occasion.

India

U.S.-Soviet Nuclear Missile Accord Welcomed

BK241625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] India has welcomed the recent agreement in principle between the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate the short- and medium-range nuclear missiles. In a statement in New Delhi today, an official spokesman described it as a positive first step in the direction of freeing the world of the menace of nuclear weapons. He said, however, it will still leave intact the bulk of nuclear arsenals of the nuclear weapon states.

Stronger Action Against LTTE Warned

BK241458 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] India today warned the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] that if it deliberately provokes violence, the peacekeeping force will be compelled to take even stronger measures. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry described as reprehensible and cowardly LTTE's attempt to incite violence using women and children. He said yesterday's incident in Mannar, in which the peacekeeping force had to open fire, was engineered, incited, and arranged by LTTE. Giving details, the spokesman said 900-1,000 people had collected at the peacekeeping force camp, saying that they wanted to hand over a memorandum. While arrangements were being made to receive the memorandum, LTTE supporters, who were behind women and children, started stoning the camp. The peacekeeping force personnel had to open fire when LTTE supporters tried to enter the camp. This resulted in a stampede in which 17 persons were injured. The spokesman said only two persons were injured in the firing.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons

LD251444 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1050 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] [President Khamene'i], Friday prayer leader of Tehran, spoke in his sermon today about the reasons for his trip to the United Nations. He pointed to his meeting with the imam of the ummah, and said: The leader of the revolution has instructed me to tell the people of Iran that by reliance on our principled stances, we will not compromise in any way with global arrogance; that the aggressor must be punished; and that we will reply to the mischiefs of the United States in the Persian Gulf. The president added: The imam also said that the people should know that, God willing, victory will be ours.

Speaking on his trip to the United Nations, Hojjal ol-Eslam val Moslemin Khamene'i said: Insofar as the UN podium is the most important podium in the world and the most widely listened to, our motivation for being present at that international organization was to confront the distortation of the truth regarding the bright face of the revolution and of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly since all of the communications apparatus of arrogance [the United States] were mobilized to project a bad image of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The media presented to the world an image of the Islamic revolution as a reactionary revolution, and the people of Iran as a hard people. Because of this, the imam emphasized: Go to the United Nations and prevent the distortion of the truth; present the glorious face of the Islamic Republic of Iran as it truly is to people who love justice.

The president added: Even though the duration of my speech was not very long, fortunately the voice and message of the Islamic Republic of Iran—the message of the Islamic Republic has been given, and it will be repeated in the future to all countries, in the hearts of all nations. This has taken place whether global arrogance likes it or not.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Khamene'i added: At the United Nations, and also in the meetings that took place with the secretary general and other officials, we emphasized that our words are words of justice, and our reasoning is that the aggressor must be punished and not merely identified. The issue of identifying the aggressor is preliminary to his punishment; naming him is not enough. Rather, a court should be set up to punish the aggressor. We told them that we are not instigators of war, and that we are also not for the continuation of the war. We are a people who are valiantly defending our rights and want to return tyrany to the tyrant.

The president went on to say: Fortunately, the trip of the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation to the United Nations and the meetings held with UN officials had its own impact, and we reminded the UN secretary general that he can continue his work in this connection, and that he should not be influenced by the creation of adverse climates and sensationalism by the United States and its agents. Since the Security Council is not limited to five permanent members, the views of all the members, who number 15 in all, must be given their due importance.

The Friday prayer leader of Tehran then thanked the young people who are devoted to Iran and Islam, and also the Islamic societies of U.S. universities, and said: A great clergyman in the United States told me: Why have you hoarded the bounties of jihad and martyrdom; allow us, too, to come along and reach the lofty blessings of martyrdom alongside your volunteers. The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, in continuing with the Friday prayers, referred to the mischiefs of the United States in the Persian Gulf and stated: There were three reasons behind what the United States did: First, it wanted to justify its presence in the Persian Gulf; second, U.S. leaders wanted to show to their own people that they were being decisive; and third, they wanted to eclipse the trip of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and our remarks in the United Nations. But fortunately, by the grace of God, they were defeated.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Khamene'i added: At my press conference I asked the United States three questions, but they had no answers to any of my questions. We asked: How can they prove that the *Iran Ajr* was carrying mines? What are your reasons for saying that in the Persian Gulf, you can attack any vessel that may be carrying weapons and arms? We also asked: Since you claim to have known that there were mines on this vessel, why did you not you capture it instead of killing those on board?

Addressing the President of the United States, the president said: Our nation is now receiving the bodies of their martyred young ones, and you should know that we are proud of becoming martyrs. But tomorrow, when you will be delivering the corpses of young Americans to their families, what answers will you have for your mischiefs in the Persian Gulf.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added: The United States passed on a message through the secretary general of the United Nations saying: Count this episode as being finished—then, since you do not have the guts for resistance and war, why do you embark on fomenting tension? You should know that the resistant nation of Iran does not fear your threat, and we will return your blow against yourselves, decisively.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Khamene'i concluded his sermon with an analysis of the imposed war and said: These past 7 years of war have exposed many of the realities which they wanted to cover up; we should not allow global arrogance to nurse the slightest hope of continuing with its base and satanic objectives. Through our preparedness, we should prevent the plots of arrogant powers just as the combatants of Islam have shown on the battlefronts.

Majlis Speaker Praises Khamene'i UN Speech

LD241225 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Speech by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly in Tehran on 24 September—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We thank our president, who appeared at the United Nations and delivered a clear and dignified speech. He thus succeeded in exposing the mischief on the part of the enemies of Islam, and also explained the righteous path of the Islamic revolution—which has been victimized—and the victims of contemporary history.

In fairness, we can learn many things from what was said in this speech, as well as from the reaction to it. If the world confronts what was said in a sincere manner, it will learn many things that are embodied in this affair.

The principles of the Islamic revolution were clearly and logically explained. The wrong principles of global arrogance, especially the imperialism of the West, were exposed. The weak movement of the world organizations—the United Nations, the Security Council, and all other organizations that move under the influence of the world's bullies—were clarified. The 8-year history of the Islamic revolution, a time when adversaries were condemned, taught the Westerners many things.

Among the outstanding points of the president's speech, which has now brought forth the anger of global arrogance, were the wrong methods that the Westerners have adopted regarding history; the crimes of Saddam and his supporters; the dirty work of the counterrevolution and its support; bullying, lack of fairness, and lack of logic on the part of the powers dominating the world; the waywardness of the news media in regard to the Islamic revolution; the victimization of the world's deprived; and the distorted and cursed order of world domination.

You see that global arrogance tries, in its analyses and sayings, to seek topics that overshadow these issues. They are angry to see that a respected religious figure is exposing them in this way and on their own home ground. Up until today, global arrogance had never been forced to face the truth so clearly and so strongly. We must anticipate more angry words than before from the agents of global arrogance.

Indeed, it is a source of pride for our nation and for the Muslims of the world to see that today the only voice that is decisively defending its rights and is coming to grips with tyranny is the Islamic Republic. They are the authorities of a regime that has been victimized under the pressure of global arrogance seeking domination.

Thank God, the adventurism of America in the Persian Gulf, was counter-productive. As foreseen, rather than silence in response to the Islamic revolution's cry for justice, the U.S. adventurism caused this cry to become louder. It also led to heightened interest. People learned that all this clamor was raised to weaken the Islamic revolution's cry. Thank God, we now are witnessing a strong political victory in the international community.

Khamene'i Meets ICO Head at UN

LD241719 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept 24, IRNA—Although most countries have realized that the countering of an aggressor is an essential condition for a just approach to the Iraqi-imposed war, certain big powers continue to create difficulties in this regard, declared President 'Ali Khamene'i Wednesday.

In a meeting with the secretary-general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Sharifuddin Pirzada at the United Nations, the president stressed "war issues should be settled only in the framework of justice."

"We feel that world countries have now been closer than ever before to the fact that justice should be done," noted Khamene'i.

Commenting on the Persian Gulf issue, including last Monday's U.S. attack on an Iranian cargo ship Khamene'i said the region has been turned into a 'powder keg' which might explode any moment.

"The U.S. committed a stupid blunder in the Persian Gulf...The time for responding to this act will be determined by Iran," assured president Khamene'i.

The president also called on the OIC to denounce the July 31 massacre of pilgrims in Mecca by the Saudis so as not to let the sanctity of Allah's secure house, as the most sacred place, be shattered.

The Saudi Dynasty is trying to whitewash its crime through false propaganda, the president said, noting that the killings of hundreds of male and female pilgrims indicate the depth of the crime itself.

Further on the same subject, Khamene'i stressed that Saudi rulers by slaughtering pilgrims broke the sanctity of the holy Ka'bah, the sanctuary for all Muslims.

In response, the OIC head described the situation in the Persian Gulf as 'very complicated and provocative'.

Velayati Continues Meetings at UN

LD241828 Tehran IRNA in English 1804 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati conferred with his Italian and Japanese counterparts Giulio Andreotti and Tadashi Kuranari, respectively on important issues of the Persian Gulf and developments of the Security Council in separate meetings at United Nations headquarters today.

The Italian minister whose country will chair the Security Council from next month, exchanged views with Velayati on U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's visits, his report to the Security Council as well as the latest issues put forth at the council.

In another development, similar talks were held between Velayati and the Japanese foreign minister. Velayati stressed that justice should be administered for establishment of a permanent peace and providing of a national security, and the Security Council should take this into consideration.

President Returns From UN Session 24 Sep

LD241809 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, heading a high-ranking political delegation to the 42d United Nations Genearal Assembly in New York, returned to Tehran this evening.

On his arrival in Tehran, the president was welcomed by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani; Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi; Council of Guardians member Ayatollah Jannati; cabinet members; Supreme Judicial Council member Mar'ashi; the representative of the imam to the Supreme Defense Council, General Zahirnezhad; the chief of the Joint Staff Command, General Sohrabi; the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Commander Rezai'e; commanders of the three services; a number of state and military dignitaries; and the heads of foreign missions to Tehran.

Interviewed on UN Visit

LD242110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Interview with President Khamene'i by unidentified reporter in Tehran on 24 September following his return from the 42d UNGA session in New York—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Khamene'i, now that your visit to the United Nations has ended, would you please give us your assessment of the trip and say whether or not the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran achieved all of its objectives?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My principle aim was to go to the General Assembly and deliver my speech. The trip was pivotal to this issue. Of course, it was natural that we would also hold some meetings, most of which consisted of sessions with the secretary general, the head of the General Assembly, and the head of the Security Council. These were fundamental to us. Of course, before I left Tehran, persons from different countries, who were going to the United Nations, requested meetings with me, and we had the time to meet with some of them. We had a tight schedule, and it was not possible to see all of them. We met with the prime minister of Japan; the FRG foreign minister; the head of the ICO; and a number of others—perhaps some of their names have been recorded on the list, I do not recall.

Of course, many students had gathered in New York, and I wanted very much to meet them. Unfortunately, this was not possible due to the special conditions in New York City, the bustle of this uncontrollable city. This is why, despite my desire and enthusiasm to see these children, I was only able to meet their representatives. We met with them and with the Muslim leaders from different U.S. states who had come to New York. Some were Arabs, some Africans. The meetings were limited to these.

The main issue for us was the speech, and the speech, too—thanks to God—we were able to deliver in a good atmosphere. There was a good gathering in the hall of the General Assembly. I heard that the speech was also broadcast in Tehran.

[Reporter] The presence of your excellency at the United Nations, and especially your speech to the 42d General Assembly session, received wide coverage in the world's mass media. Could you tell us about the effect of this presence and this speech among the representatives of member countries, especially Third World countries?

[Khamene'i] Naturally, we were not in touch with all the delegations, but there were many delegates who came and congratulated us. Some of them came to me personally and offered their sincere congratulations. They said: You said what was deep in our hearts. Just as you said, the countries of the Third World, Africa, Muslim countries—the speech held what was in their hearts, it was contained there, and in reality it was the message of the world of the oppressed, not solely the message of our country; it came from the heart and desire of oppressed nations. They understood that these words were being said explicitly and without any reservation. This pleased them; they said so. Some of them also went up to some members of our delegation, to Mr Velayati, to Mr Mir Salim and other brothers, and they said how pleased they were. Regarding its effect on the people, the people of other countries, this cannot be assessed now; it will be understood later.

[Reporter] Coinciding with your presence in the United Nations, and several hours before you delivered your speech, an Iranian vessel was attacked by U.S. military helicopters. Could you tell us what effect this act by the United States had on the position adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the United Nations?

[Khamene'i] Naturally, it had no fundamental impact on our position, but it became a prime example of U.S. aggression for everyone there and for us to tell them about it. Assessments were made and the analysis was that the United States basically did this at that point in time in order to diminish the impact of my visit, that is, to eclipse it with some hot news, especially as it was constantly showing the event on television, on different channels, and thus affecting world public opinion. The United States wanted to do this in order to project us as aggressive warmongerers and eclipse the principles contained in the speech.

Thanks to God Almighty, it seems that everything turned around because this U.S. act was one of aggression, and was understood as such by everyone. After the event, I had three press meetings, one of which was a news conference. Another was a television talk, and the other was a private, friendly meeting with [name indistinct], the newspaper boss in New York. In all these meetings, they saw what Iran had done and we sensed that they also understood. In the evening, on television, I heard an assessment of what we said. I will repeat—in the words of some prominent U.S. personalities who were commenting on television—what we said: This helicopter attack demonstrates the aggressive spirit of the United States because, if it is telling the truth, and if there really were some mines on this vessel, it could have not fired at it, not killed people, not injured some, and not taken some as hostages. [sentence as heard] They were constantly showing our hostages on U.S. television, and one could see in their faces that their morale was good. All this shows that the United States is trying to create tension in the Persian Gulf. I was asked: What is the motivation behind the creation of tension by the United States? I said: It wants to camouflage its domestic problems, to smooth over the disagreeable effects of the McFarlane affair, and to cover the weaknesses of Reagan's rule with this act. This explanation was accepted and understood.

As some U.S. academics expressed on television—whom I myself heard later—what happened helped Reagan's prestige by portraying a strong profile to U.S. society. However, this turned against U.S. policy in general. Their analysis suggested that this point had taken hold in their minds completely. This sort of action created crises and showed their aggressiveness.

Furthermore, U.S. propaganda contained lies and contradictions. On the 1st day, it said the boat was a military speedboat, implying in their own words that it belonged to the Guards Corps. It said this in an attempt to show that this was true. It also showed the "Martyrdom" exercises on television, hoping to juxtapose the speedboat with the exercises. The following morning it said that it was a vessel belonging to the Navy. We said one of the two versions was wrong, but I say that both were lies because this was neither a speedboat nor a ship belonging to the Navy, but a known vessel with a merchant class registration. It said there were mines on board the vessel. We of course said mines can be taken from any place and transferred to another, followed by filming, using the highest techniques just to (?prove the above).

I think the United States has not been able to achieve anything from this incident, and as I have heard once again, the United States is trying to create a crisis in the Persian Gulf by causing intrusions against merchant vessels and by employing bullying tactics in the Persian Gulf. However, this will also work against it because the whole world knows that our nation is a strong, resolute, and firm nation, and becomes more resistant and radical when pressured. The United States will do something and it will double the firmness of the Iranian nation

when dealing with the United States. This will undoubtedly cost the United States very dearly.

[Reporter] Among the most prominent topics in your speech at the UNGA session, was the proposal to change the structure of the Security Council by abolishing the right to veto and permanent membership. In the wake of the proposal, what practical steps will be taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to pursue this?

[Khamene'i] We presented this to the United Nations as an idea, not a proposal. The right of veto has been commented on by Islamic Republic of Iran officials as being a wrong idea; weilding power in the world by the right to veto is excessive. We spoke of permanent Security Council membership as another over-demanding and bullying right of the great powers. We were hoping that the idea could find its place in delegates' minds. We did not mention the above as a proposal to be discussed and voted on; it is too early. There will undoubtedly be a day when the UN Security Council will naturally and inherently reach this same conclusion. Such a result would change the Security Council from sometimes being the insecurity council. That day will be a time for serious work.

[Reporter] The last question: Your excellency's visit to the United Nations has been discussed in a positive light. In your opinion, can the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in international societies at high levels be continued, and in what form?

[Khamene'i] We believe that at any level in international society, the Islamic Republic of Iran will be present with a strong position. Of course, for me, this is directly related. That is to say, this is not attributed to us but to the revolution. The impressiveness of the revolution, as well as the courage and power shown by our nation, has overwhelmed everyone. Of course, at high levels this is more prominent, while at lower levels the same impressiveness is not found to the same degree. However, in every place, depending on the society and gathering, officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran taking part will do so with an impressive presence. Everyone of us conveys the awesomeness of the revolution. However, most certainly we cannot be the medium to fully convey the great impact of the revolution, the greatness of the revolution, the imam and the people, all existing as epics. In reality, it is an unbelievable form for the people. Throughout the world receiving a sign of all this will be very attractive for the people.

Musavi Message on 'Catastrophic' Situation

LD241722 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—A seminar titled 'Laws of Navigation Safety and Protection of Marine Environment' marking the 'Global Navigation Day' was held here at Amir Kabir Industrial University Thursday with a message from Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

The message asked that if the Baghdad regime's repeated violation of navigation safety and marine environment is not condemned, how can one mark the Global Navigation Day? It is naive to expect that navigation safety in the Persian Gulf could be safeguarded without condemning Iraq's mischievous acts, he added.

Elsewhere, the message said the facilities at commercial ports have almost doubled and capacity for delivering goods increased twice as much during the recent decade. Despite Iraqi attacks and related issues of the imposed war in the Persian Gulf, these vital arteries have admirably done their job with the highest efficiency, thanks to the Iranian maritime forces' non-stop efforts, it stressed.

The 'war of tankers' has had new dimensions in the Persian Gulf this year, said the message adding, the Ba'thist enemy has endangered navigation safety in the region more than ever before. International circles have turned a blind eye to such provocative acts, it said.

Adverting to the U.S. crimes and tension-creating acts in the Persian Gulf, the message assured the criminal U.S. will certainly receive a crushing answer for its wicked acts. As a result of U.S. meddlings the world should closely follow and be ready for a catastrophic situation in the region, he added.

Later in the seminar, a Navy captain spoke on the role the Navy plays in the Iraqi-Imposed war. Naval Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Hoseyn Alai'e briefed the meet on the numerous aggressions of global arrogance in the region against the Islamic Republic.

Minister of Roads and Transport Mohammad Seyyed Kya, who was also present outlined the long-term plans of the Islamic Republic and its economic, social, political, and cultural abilities to silence plots hatched by the global arrogance.

Official on Panamanian Ship Sinking

LD241751 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] This evening, news agencies claimed that a Panamanian vessel was sunk after hitting a mine near Kuwaiti shores. According to the same claim, the vessel exploded and sank at 0100 last Tuesday.

A War Information Headquarters spokesman, commenting on claim, said: The incident involving the Panamanian vessel near Kuwaiti shores is based on a story full of ambiguities and suspicion. He said: To begin with, it is most interesting that this claimed incident was announced over 50 hours later. In similar cases, news of attacks on vessels or damage received by vessels is usually broadcast within a few hours by means open to international news agencies which enjoy much influence in the Arab littoral states of the Persian Gulf.

He said: This delay of over 50 hours has wiped out any chance of gathering evidence necessary to analyze the claim about a Panamanian vessel sinking due to its

having hit a mine. The question remains: Why should evidence worthy of analysis be destroyed? The spokesman further added: On the other hand, it has been announced that the same vessel hit a mine and sank an hour after the U.S. attack against the *Iran Ajr*. This being assumed to be correct, there still remains the question of how the U.S. Navy warships, with all their advanced military equipment, did not notice the sinking of the Panamanian vessel.

He said: Delaying the announcement of the above incident takes place at a time when the United States is claiming that it witnessed the laying of mines by the *Iran Ajr* in international waters of the Persian Gulf at 2300 on Monday. However, it has said nothing about the sinking of the Panamanian vessel until now. These are more ambiguous points about the incident. The War Information Headquarters spokesman concluded by saying: The interval between the attack on the *Iran Ajr* by the United States and the claim that a Panamanian vessel hit a mine cannot be coincidental. These two incidents must be seen together.

These actions indicate the beginning of a suspicious move by the United States in the Persian Gulf.

Musavi-Ardabili Envisages 'Retaliation'
LD241250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Interview with Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Court, by unidentified correspondent after visit to Baqiat-Allah al-A'zam Hospital in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] You have just visited some injured fighters in Baqiat-Allah al-A'zam. How did you find their morale?

[Musavi-Ardabili] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Whenever we have visited them in the hospital, whether today or in the past, their morale has been very good and very high. Today we saw some wounded and injured fighters whose treatment has taken a long time. Some of them have been here for over a year or even a number of years; but despite the fact that they have suffered deep wounds and some of them have suffered losses, we found that the morale of all of them was very high. When one sees their high morale, one is strengthened instead of trying to give them strength.

[Correspondent] Following the attack on an Iranian ship by U.S. military helicopters in the Persian Gulf, Reagan said that the attack was permitted under international law anywhere in international waters. What are your views on his remarks?

[Musavi-Ardabili] I do not know what kind of law it is that he refers to. Lawyers know there is no old or new law which gives any such permission to anyone. First of all, they are lying; they are lying to the world in saying that they issued a warning first, that mines were being laid, that they kept them under surveillance. These are lies. It was nothing more than adventurism. When they wish to create an incident, they attack an unarmed ship, they attack a supply ship, and then make numerous excuses and try to portray it as a lawful act.

However, sometimes they wish to merely make political use of an issue and then forget it. This is just like the time when Iraq hit their ship; it was not clear what finally happened, what happened to the side which had attacked, whether that was a legal or illegal act. So many people died. What happened to their files? What happened to those who were responsible for firing? This is what they are like, and it is known by everyone. Even imagining that all the excuses which they have raised are correct—and they are not—they still do not have such a right.

I noticed that some lawyers who specialize in waterways have announced that they have no such right, even imagining that what they claim is true. There were no ships around there, there have been no ships sunk there, no ship has been under attack so that they can say that they were acting in self-defense. They could have issued an announcement, even if what they claim is correct. They could have brought their minesweepers. They could have found the mines, if there were any there. Then they could have announced it in international organizations.

To come and attack someone, kill some people, attack the ship, then find excuses saying that the ship was committing a violation, that it was laying mines, to utter some lies here and to fabricate some laws there, that is not right.

However, we are not surprised at their action, because we have become fully familiar with their kind of logic. Their logic is the logic of force. They act with force, but they know themselves that the Iranian nation is not a nation which would accept such aggression or which would forgive this humiliation. However, the day that they experience retaliation, they will start a hue and cry in the world about it. They say that their own acts are legal; but soon it wil be seen what happens if the law of force receives retaliation.

Commentary on U.S. Attack on 'Iran-Ajr'
LD231240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1107 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The attack on an Iranian ship by U.S. helicopter gunships, which martyred five people, gave a new twist to the escalating tension created by Washington in the Persian Gulf. It once again exposed the aggressive nature of imperialism. Although the possibility of such incidents could be seen on the horizon, in view of the U.S. objectives in dispatching its forces to the region, to see it happening at this very sensitive juncture when the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] has explicitly declared it

favors a real peace in the Persian Gulf, demonstrates on the one hand the attempt of the criminal United States of America to undermine this righteous demand of Islamic Iran, and on the other hand shows the degree of intolerance of the colonial leaders toward the IRI's political victories.

America's direct action in attacking the *Iran-Ajr* ship, 50 miles from Bahrain in international waters, demonstrated that Washington is inclined to enter a new phase in its confrontation against the Islamic Revolution of Iran, to the extent that U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has openly announced that he would not hesitate to repeat such actions. Such a warmongering remark indicates the adventurist intentions of the Reagan administration to escalate tension in the Persian Gulf and to enter into military confrontation against the IRI. Despite the claims in the official statement issued by the White House that its criminal deed was a defensive action, Weinberger's clear statement indicates that there is a prearranged plan in effect.

Since UN Security Council Resolution No 598, issued on 20 July, the United States of America has repeatedly announced that Iran should accept this resolution in full. Now, in pressuring the Security Council and ignoring the IRI's clear stance, it is trying to implement the second phase. In this connection, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz announced that his country is preparing the draft of a UN resolution, which will recommend an arms embargo against Iran as a warmongering country; and the U.S. representative at the United Nations, Vernon Walters, has said: Should this organization approve such a resolution, Washington would deploy its military forces to secure implementation of the plan.

All these remarks clarify the point that the aggressive United States cannot bear to hear the just demands of a revolutionary nation raised in an international forum, and would rather see the full satisfaction of its satanic greed. To this end it has resorted to using two levers of military and political pressure simultaneously. However, the IRI has proved that it will not submit to force nor give in to the blackmail of major powers. It is ready to answer arrogant aggression with the might that has come from its faith in God.

If the statesmen of global arrogance have prepared U.S. public opinion to receive countless bodies of their dead soldiers, and if they have ordered countless coffins to carry the bodies of their dead militarymen, we are also prepared to give a reply to U.S. aggression that will be a lesson to other aggressors in history. The statesmen of the U.S. Administration, justifying the aggression against the *Iran-Ajr* supply ship, will receive the reply it deserves. The zealous youth of Iran are preparing themselves for delivering decisive blows to the criminal United States.

Khomeyni Receives Marchers 24 Sep

LD241328 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] The marchers from the fronts to Jamaran [Tehran suburb], who had walked the long distance from the fronts in Al-Faw, Mawit, Maymak and Sumar to Tehran in 19 days and who on the route were warmly welcomed by the heroic people of the Islamic Iran, including the people of Tehran, this morning met with Imam Khomeyni, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

At the beginning of this meeting, Shamkhani, commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, introduced the visitors who were made up of military, Guards, basij, and Gendarmerie forces, and expressed the faithfulness of the fighters to the decree of the imam of the ummah about showing their disavowal of the infidels, and their preparedness for continuing the war until the expulsion of the aggression, the downfall of the rotten system ruling over Iraq, as well as taking revenge on the criminal America for the sake of its barbaric acts in the Persian Gulf.

At the end of this meeting the imam of the ummah responded to the sentiments of those present. It should also be added that the marchers presented a valuable plaque to the imam of the ummah, on which was written: We will never give in to degradation. The plaque was hung in the Jamaran Mosque [Khomeyni's residence].

Sends Message on Martyrs

LD242238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] On the 3d day of the sacred war week, glorious ceremonies were held all over the country to eulogize the martyrs, the missing in action, and the prisoners and self-denying fighters of the war and their esteemed families. The martyr-nurturing ummah were present all over the country to hold the ceremonies. In the ceremonies held by the Martyrs' Foundation, the families of the martyrs were also present.

In Tehran the ceremonies began with the reading of the handwritten message of his eminence the imam at the Behesht Zahra cemetery. The full text of the message of the imam of ummah, in praise of the martyrs and their families, is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. How can this great reward, promised by the esteemed pen of the Absolute, be analyzed by the minute powers of human thought? It looks as if this great reward is the same order of the elevated God which has been brought in the glorious Surah of Sa'f. [Koranic verse] Who is the able philospher or the knowledgable great scientist who can understand the meaning of popularity with the court of God, to understand it in order to talk about it or to translate it into words? Is it the love of the supererogatory prayer that a consequence of proximity with it the earth-bound slave aspires to reach the higher level of

angels? And the absolute right becomes his power of hearing and sight as does his heart through its esoteric attraction. That which can hear, or see, or take delight in mysticism will be with the hearing and seeing powers and the heart of the absolute right, and cannot see but for the sight of right, and cannot hear but for the hearing power of right, and shall not know but for the knowledge of right. And then the covers will be removed and they shall see the world as it is. [Koranic passage]

Or else it is closeness [to God] through performance of duties in which the person and the personality are dissolved and greatness is achieved, when self and selfness are eliminated and plurality in all its meanings departs; where there shall be no eye and no ear, nothing hidden and nothing appearing. Then there shall remain nothing on the path to God and there shall remain no names and no identity. They have left the house and learned their death. And steps and pens have been broken. [as heard] [Koranic passage]

O God, this is the story of the crusaders for the path of God and their great reward—those who have been martyred on the battlefields against Your enemy, the enemy of Your great prophet, and the enemies of Your Koran. Or they have been victorious in this crusade, and You are a witness to the fact that this year we have had self-denying fighters, and migrants, and crusaders who migrated toward You, toward Your safe house which has been a safe haven for every being since the beginning of creation, and who, before the amazed eyes of Muslims throughout the world, were slain by the dirty hand of the United States which came out through the sleeve of the house of Al Sa'ud. They created another 'Ashura [10th of the Arabic month of Muharram] on the eve of the 'Ashura of Vali Ollah A'azam, peace be on him [third imam of the Shi'ites]. They created another 'Ashura with different dimensions close to You and to Your safe haven, on the bloody Friday. I wish I was not alive to see it or to hear it.

It is not for the sake of the martyrdom of the Mojahedin and of the exiled dear ones because martyrdom is an aspiration of our dear ones, a well-known nectar for our women, men, and children who have tasted far more ferocious and tragic tribulations in the course of Mongol-like strikes by the 'Aflaqi Saddam [Husayn], as witnessed by us; but for the sake of a tragedy which befell not only the prophet of Islam, peace be upon him, but all prophets from Adam to the seal [Muhammad], as ordered by the Black House and by the filthy hands of the house of Al Sa'ud—the most savage criminals of the age—that the highest order of the sacred divinity has been broken. If God's vice-regent [Imam Husayn] and his disciples fought in Your name and were martyred during the Husaynite 'Ashura, on the Black Friday in Mecca—another 'Ashura—they did this to You and to Your prophet, and to our pilgrims—the messengers of Your prophet's ideals who carried nothing, even for their own protection in accordance with your religion—whatever deed that only the arch-satan United States and its servants could do. By commiting this savage massacre, the United States and its hirlings tried to take their revenge on sacred Islam at the site of the inspiration and the sanctuary of God, the same Islam which will soon be the ideal for all expolited nations under the rule of the East and the West.

O Lord, today every power and superpower is determined to uproot the genuine Islam of our beloved prophet, peace be upon him and his scion. O exalted one, today the Saddamites, who are displaying their enemity toward your religion, have placed themselves in the hands of all satans of the world to silence the Muhammadan Islam. I beseech you to make us more resolute in paving your path. Make the dear and honorable families of the martyrs, the selfless war-wounded, those missing in action, and prisoners of war more patient. O Creator, bring our martyrs close to the lord of the martyrs [Imam Husayn], peace be upon him, and grant recovery to all of our dear and mighty selfless ones for your revolution. Return our fighters who are missing in action and our prisoners of war to their homelands as soon as possible. O God, grant more patience to the whole Islamic nation, particularly to the brave and epic-making nation of Iran to withstand military pressures from land, sea, and air, and also the daily increasing economic and political hardship exerted by the centers of corruption. O God, fill the hearts of the believers in the religion of the exalted prophet, peace be upon him, only with your own pleasure of them [Koranic verse].

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 22 September 1987

Guards Corps Official's Speech

LD241345 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Speech by 'Ali Shamkhani, commander of Grand Forces of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, at meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni in Tehran on 24 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Peace be upon the Lord of the Martyrs. O great and determined leader of the revolution! These brothers who are honored to be received by you are the representatives of the victorious fighters on the front of light against darkness. They have left the battle sectors of Al-Faw, Mehran, Maymak, and Mawit, each of which has recorded an epic of the greatness and devotion of the Islamic ummah in the book of revolution history. [passage omitted]

O Imam, we are determined to change the pace of time on the political clock in favor of Islam, with divine succor. The United States should wait: If the reactionary rulers of the region do not stop their cooperation with Saddam, they should expect to see the collapse of Saddam and an ever-burning fire in the Persian Gulf.

The foolish U.S. behavior today stems from its wrong analysis of the revolution and its place in the world of Islam. This grave blunder is similar to the one Saddam

chose, and the one that Yazid, the son of Mo'awiyah, chose to take [reference to ruler whose forces killed third Shi'ite imam].

God willing, thanks to Your Eminence's prudence, the efforts of the fighter and the undiminishing succor of Almighty God, which has always blessed the warriors, we shall hoist the flag of Jamaran's [Tehran suburb where Khomeyni lives] glory over the key trenches of the world, a flag which indicates that the owner of the Jamaran house shall never be deserted. May God's peace, salutations, and mercy be upon you all.

Guards Corps Commander Marks War Week

LD231030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Speech by Mohsen Rezai'e, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and member of the Supreme Defense Council, to mark war week; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted citing Koranic verse] This year will be one of the most important of our revolution. It is a particularly sensitive year. The bullets fired by our fighters this year will have more significant results. No doubt the victories that the dear warriors of Islam are going to achieve will be especially important, more so than in previous years. If, God willing, we succeed this year against the new conspiracies hatched in the Persian Gulf region, as well as the other plots instigated by our enemies, then our nation will certainly be recognized in the world as an invincible nation of history. If we deliver a mighty blow to the mouth of the aggressors this year, then our nation's honor and prestige will increase among the Islamic societies and even among our enemies, God willing.

The importance of this year is not confined to the Iran-Iraq war alone; it is not confined to the fact that we are continuing it with all our strength. Rather, its importance is owed to some other events which have appeared alongside the war this year. The Persian Gulf incident—the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf—is one of this year's important events. We have not had any similar incident occur in previous years. In previous years, we used to think about the possibility of a U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf region. However, this year, the possibility has turned into a reality. This certainly is a new problem facing us.

The Americans have dispatched perhaps more than 40 warships to the region. After a period of hesitation and even some preliminary opposition, Britain and France have also dispatched several minesweepers and warships to the region. Italy and the Netherlands are among the countries trying to catch up with events by coming to the Persian Gulf to see what they can find as booty. According to many military and political analysts, the presence of the United States and some European states in the Persian Gulf, with so many warships, is unparalled since World War II. There have been several wars since then, including the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Therefore, we can observe that today, with the U.S. presence—with the dispatch of American forces to the Persian Gulf region—we are witnessing a new incident in the Iran-Iraq war. We have not had any such incident in previous years.

A second incident was Bloody Friday in Mecca. In previous years, Saudi Arabia had resorted to so much deception that it even claimed that Zaki Yamani [former Saudi petroleum minister] was sacked to please Iran. It said: We defend the OPEC price of $18 per barrel because we intend to improve relations with the Islamic Republic. However, this year we saw the true, ugly face of Arabia, a country which committed a historic crime by attacking the heart of our pilgrims. [passage omitted further condemning Saudi Arabia]

The primary U.S. objective is to save Saddam by employing certain means. I would like to inform you, the martyr-nurturing ummah, of the tools and means at the disposal of the Americans. One of these is the UN regulations. The Americans planned to come to the Persian Gulf to frighten the Iranians. They then intended to say: After frightening the Iranians, we will ask the United Nations to issue resolutions. There will be one resolution after another. We will capture the Iranian positions trench by trench. We will capture their political and religious trenches through the United Nations and through diplomatic pressure and then the war problem will be solved. When they began their task, they faced some opposition within the ranks of the U.S. ruling system. However, the Americans still intend to go ahead with their plan. This is one of the tools of the Americans.

Another plan which the Americans put into action was that of provoking Kuwait and Saudi Arabia against us by putting pressure on them. They brought those two countries into confrontation with us with their plans. In order to maintain an open presence in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia with all their soldiers and crowds, the Americans thought it essential that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia should be at odds with us, and that is what they promoted.

On the pretext of escorting vessels, therefore, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were involved in clashes with us. They later completed the job by staging the Mecca tragedy and thus fully justified their presence in Saudi Arabia. They announced that there was conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran and that they intended to support Saudi Arabia by dispatching forces and soldiers. They managed to justify their presence in Saudi Arabia.

Therefore, we see that the United States is the axis of recent developments. The recent sequence of events has been at the orders of the United States and with the active presence of that country.

Let us assume that the United States did not give direct orders to Saudi Arabia. Would Saudi Arabia ever have the courage to attack our hajj pilgrims without the U.S.

presence in the Persian Gulf region? What encouraged them to attack our pilgrims? Was it not the U.S. military presence in the region? [repetitive passage omitted] Furthermore, we have intelligence that the Americans did play a direct role in the matter. It was their plan. They had a part in planning the attack, as well as in attempting to use pressure tactics.

Now we can see that the United States has been the cause of the latest developments in order to support the battered trench occupied by Saddam. [passage omitted on historical points]

For the past 6 or 7 years, the Americans have helped Iraq by various means, but none of these means achieved any success. What alternative was open to the Americans in order to prevent the collapse of Saddam's frail bunkers? The only alternative was to cry for help by shouting and pleading: O you people, our allies, Iraq is collapsing and you must all go on the offensive.

Now you see that they have all come to help. The United States, Britain, France, Italy, and the Netherlands have either come or are on their way. What are they all coming for? This dispatch of forces by the United States demonstrates first and foremost the importance of our victory. It shows how difficult it is for them to control our warriors. The need to send more warships to the Persian Gulf region today demonstrates the greatness and might of our fighters. If our fighters were not so numerous and mighty, the world would not have despatched so many warships or so many troops. This shows their fear and panic. They fear that our victory might be achieved at any moment. This would free Iraq's future from the claws of the United States and Europe.

If they were to lose the future political control of the region, what would America do? After 7 years of assistance and the billions of dollars given to Iraq, how can the United States remain indifferent and watch the Iraqi Ba'th party and Saddam be destroyed by one mighty offensive of the fighting sons of the Islamic Republic of Iran? How can the United States come to terms with this after 7 years, and what can it tell the world? The United States should be concerned and afraid; it should seek a way out; it should be impatient now because it cannot control the achievements of our fighters in the battlefields. This is obvious.

It is interesting to note that when the United States decided to send troops and everyone opposed it, the Americans said: What can we do? We have told the European leaders to come and join us in the Gulf; the situation is critical and the Iranians are on the verge of victory. When the Americans gave up any hope of receiving assistance from its allies, it decided to become the vanguard. It justified itself by saying: We shall be the first to jump into the water. When others see that we are not sinking, they will find courage to join us. [passage omitted reviewing gradual build-up of foreign forces]

The Americans should not think that they are powerful because their ships have remained unscathed for the past 1 or 2 months in the Strait of Hormuz and Persian Gulf. The fact that they have escaped any harm shows the patience, gentleness, and tolerance of our people. [passage omitted praising the nation for its virtues]

However, have the Americans achieved what they intended to achieve here? Their first declared objective was to restore security in the Persian Gulf. However, since their arrival, more ships have been attacked and missiles have hit Kuwait. How can we be certain that the Americans have not perpetrated these deeds? These things did not happen before they came. Of course, they have said that there were some Chinese markings on them. Is it not possible for them to forge Chinese markings? Of course, they can. It is not unlikely. Why did such incidents never occur before you came? Now they are happening so often.

On the other hand, previously there was some sort of control in the Persian Gulf. For instance, the United States used to say: We have five or six warships which are moving with Saudi Arabian warships in a controlled area. Now there are too many warships. The British have said: We are not going to serve under a U.S. command; we want to be independent in the Persian Gulf region. So they want an independent commander of their own. The Italians, Americans, and Saudi Arabians also want their own commanders.

Well, with so many warships in the Persian Gulf, who can be certain that a U.S. warship might not collide with an Italian warship tomorrow? Who can guarantee that this will not happen? When you lose control of a large area, what can you do with so many warships? Are you insane? Was it not enough for you to sit in America and feed yourselves? Are you not asking for trouble by coming here and making yourselves targets of machine-gun fire? Had you stayed at home, you would have remained safe, and the ships here would have continued their daily comings and goings. You could have stayed there and ordered Saddam to abandon his mischievous deeds. You came ostensibly to restore security, but you made it worse. You have lost control, too. Anything might happen. Things are out of control. An Italian warship could collide with an American one at any moment.

However, during this period, we have enjoyed our highest oil sales. Thanks to the cover provided by the tyrants, we have quietly carried on with our work. Perhaps we have contributed more to security than anyone else. Perhaps the Americans had the same intention too, because the Americans claim to be supporters of Iran. Perhaps they have come here to quarrel among themselves to enable us to enjoy security. We do not know, but the results so far have been in our favor.

The second objective of the Americans, according to their claims, is to support their allies and friends. However, have they succeeded in defending, supporting, and increasing morale among their friends, or have they weakened their morale? The news coming out of Kuwait after two stray missiles hit that country indicates that the

Kuwaiti capitalists must withdraw their assets from banks to deposit them abroad. There is a flood of money leaving Kuwait. Well, you claimed that you have come here to support your friends and allies. Did you come to bring them misfortune and misery? [passage omitted on same theme]

The main issue being raised concerns U.S. management and command ability which is now being seriously questioned. Now no one can trust that Reagan and the U.S. Defense Department and U.S. Navy have a unified position and a unified command. Therefore, the commander in the field—the United States—is now being questioned.

The second issue is that our fighters possess some capabilities for which the United States has not been able to make any plans. This is something which they have admitted themselves. The first issue is the martyrdom-seeking attitude, a self-sacrificing attitude, the fact that our fighters possess daring and attack our enemies. This cannot be controlled by the world. This has not been factored in to the world's calculations. The world has announced that it has no answer to this martyrdom-seeking attitude, that it cannot do anything about it.

I do not know how much you brothers and sisters know about these issues. Although the U.S. fleets are combat fleets, they make great efforts to make them luxurious, clean, and tidy. Recently, we have heard that they have placed sandbags all over their warships and they have been covered with dust. The generals with their guns are sitting behind these sandbags on their warships anxiouly and worriedly scanning the water. This shows that they are afraid of this basic quality of the fighters of Islam which we have also proved in the battiefields; namely, their martyrdom-seeking attitude. This is one of our capabilities that the world lacks.

Our second capability, which is perhaps derived from the first one, is the issue of innovation and creativity. It is true that our Muslim fighters do not possess modern aircraft. It is true they do not possess the huge warships of the United States and the Soviet Union, but they have made some things, they have invented and manufactured some things, which have made the Americans wish they had 10 or 20 more warships to attack them, rather than be attacked by a few small boats. [shouts of "God is great"]

Therefore, it is not true to say that we only possess a martyrdom-seeking attitude. No, in addition to the martyrdom-seeking attitude of our fighters, we are also innovative, inventive, and creative in the tactics we use in the war against the whole world. No matter how often they try to block our path on one side, we simply attack them from another side. This is something which caused amazement in the world. One of the things which encouraged the Americans to come to the Persian Gulf was that they thought they could easily confront any methods and means we used against them in the Gulf. They had not thought of this.

In the "Martyrdom" maneuvers we demonstrated this to the whole world. Certainly, U.S. satellites have taken photographs and know what went on, and the fact that they move in the Persian Gulf so cautiously and in such a frightened manner is due to the fact that they cannot assess the power of the Islamic Republic. The Americans had not thought that the fighters of Islam could make use of innovations at sea in the same way as they do on land. [passage omitted elaborating this point] However, in a short period scores of boats of our Hezbollahis came upon the scene, changing all the calculations, and today the U.S. Marines are really amazed at how the Iranians have been able to manufacture the equipment and boats, which are a match for their warships, in such a short period. They have given our boats an interesting name. They call them boats which appear from nowhere and disappear in no time. [shouts of "God is great"] [passage omitted noting that small boats cannot be seen on radar]

This shows the inventiveness of our innovative forces, who manufacture equipment, who indentify the weak spots of the Americans, the weak spots of the world, who find these weak spots and attack them exactly at the weakest point. The world has not been able to counter this. In a year or two, they may be able to overcome one of their weaknesses; but we are not sitting idle. We will make weapons for two other weaknesses of the enemy. By the time they have overcome one of their weaknesses, we have developed weapons against another two of their weaknesses and will attack them from other directions. This is one of the secrets of our success.

Well, dear sisters and brothers, we have work ahead of us. In view of the situation at the fronts, this year we are on the threshold of an imminent victory in Iraq. The world has come to the Persian Gulf to save Saddam's rotten fortifications. They have come to save him. Their endurance is at an end. On the one hand, they cannot see the continuation of the war in its present trend. On the other hand, they do not wish to surrender. They have come here to confront us and to force us to surrender.

Today the 'Ashura epic-makers left from Tehran Province, from the central province which constitutes one of the regions of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. Today we heard that more than 30 battalions are ready to go, and some of those battalions are present at this ceremony. We must appreciate the value of this year's victories which are very different from those of last year. We should know that every bullet that we fire today is very different from the bullets we fired in previous years. We should know that if, God willing, we become victorious in this year's conspiracies, we will go down in history as an invincible nation, and the future of our revolution will be guaranteed.

In view of the sensitivity of the time, we ask all our brave youths to join the 'Ashura epic-makers and to be present in full force at the fronts. You should know that whenever we have delivered hard blows at the enemy, the enemy has retreated and has been defeated. However, whenever we have taken a step back or shown weakness

and the world has realized its blows are effective, they have continued delivering those blows. We should do something so that the enemy's fist hits steel and, God willing, America's fingers will be crushed in the Gulf. America will then learn that the Persian Gulf is Persian, and that the United States has no right to call the Persian Gulf a U.S. Gulf.

A few days ago a Kuwaiti newspaper, which has proved its subservience to the United States, wrote that gradually the Persian Gulf is assuming the name of the U.S. Gulf. This treacherous mercenary who is such a traitor has sold off Kuwait, has sold off Saudi Arabia, and now thinks that it can also sell off our Islamic values.

Dear brothers and sisters, we should defend our revolution, our values, the blood of our martyrs with full strength. God willing, wave after wave of powerful fighters should go to the battlefronts and take part in the operations inside Iraqi territory. This year we have a very extensive front in the north of Iraq. In previous years, our front was very weak. Most definitely, by the end of the current year the movement in the north of Iraq will greatly advance. All your fighting brothers are now fighting deep inside Iraqi territory and they have formed a new and extensive front against the enemy. There are other fronts as well, and there is the Gulf.

We hope the fighters of Islam will enter the field in full force and will take part both in the political scene as well as in the battlefronts this year. You should know that the bullet you fire this year will hit the United States, France, and Britain, as well as Iraq, and will turn you into an invincible nation.

God's blessings and grace be upon you.

Kuwait Daily on Talks With USSR, PRC

JN231502 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 22 Sep 87 p 1

[Text] Moscow—*Al-Ra'y al-'Amm*—Informed Soviet political sources have disclosed that the Soviet Union and Iran are currently holding secret contacts and talks on supplying Iran with SAM-3 and SAM-8 surface-to-air missiles and Frog surface-to-surface missiles, which have a range of 100 km.

The informed sources added to *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* that the secret contact and talks between Moscow and Tehran have achieved great progress, although the Soviets are showing some reservations.

On the other hand, the sources disclosed that a high-level Iranian military delegation is currently paying a secret visit to the PRC to sign a deal on advanced Chinese weapons, including fighter planes, heavy tanks, and sea-to- sea missiles. The Iranian military delegation arrived in the PRC last Thursday. It held talks with Chinese officials, during which an agreement was reached to conclude a number of deals for shipments of Chinese weapons to Iran.

The PRC is one of the leading countries supplying the Iranians with weapons and military equipment.

Libya's Jallud Assures Envoy of Support

LD241238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] According to IRNA Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan leadership council, stressed his country's decisive support for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to this report, Major Jallud made these remarks in his meeting yesterday with the ambassador of Iran to the Libyan Jamahiriyah and added: Despite the fact that U.S. and French colonialists have committed aggression against our southern frontiers through Chad, Libya continues to regard herself as an ally and fellow fighter of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said Libya did not hesitate to help Iran. He called the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in her confrontation with the United States and the imposed war justified positions. He praised the resistance of the martyr-nurturning nation of Iran over the 7 years of war.

Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, meanwhile, referring to the reactionary heads of state in the region said: Those rulers who see themselves as friends of the United States and place themselves under the protection of the military fleet of the Great Satan will have no better fate than that of the destroyed shah of Iran.

In this meeting, which lasted for more than 1 and 1/2 hours, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran explained Iran's positions with regard to the war and U.S. interference in the region.

Reportage on Visit of Romanian Minister

Meets With Commerce Minister

LD222057 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—Visiting Romanian Minister of Trade and International Cooperation Ilie Vaduva and his delegation commenced their first round of talks with Minister of Commerce Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari, here Tuesday.

Vaduva, pointing to Iran's industrial progress, said that the Romanian delegation will study Tehran-Bucharest cooperation during its visit. He called for expansion of trade ties and increase in volume of bilateral exchanges.

The Romanian minister expressed his country's satisfaction with the expansion of Iran-Romania economic relations during the previous year.

In response, the Iranian commerce minister expressed hope that level of economic exchanges between the two countries would further expand. Agreements have been made on export of Iranian non-oil goods to Romania, said Abedi-Ja'fari adding that effective steps have also been taken on the issue.

It was decided at the meeting that experts from the Iranian Commerce Ministry as well as other ministries and relevant organizations follow up the talks in a bid to achieve practical ways for expansion of bilateral relations.

The Romanian minister arrived here today at the head of a delegation.

Meets With Budget Minister

LD231250 Tehran IRNA in English 0737 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—The visiting Romanian Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation Ilie Vaduva discussed implementation of the principles of an economic cooperation protocol signed in 1986 in a meeting with Iranian Minister of Plan and Budget Ma'sud Roghani Zanjani Tuesday.

It was decided that delegations would be formed to discuss the existing problems in this regard and to prepare arrangements for the future meeting of the joint economic cooperation commission to be held in Bucharest in 1988.

The Romanian minister announced his country's readiness for cooperation in construction projects of Iran.

Zanjani voiced Iran's interest in barter exchanges and in selling non-oil goods to Romania.

The Romanian minister arrived here Monday night to visit the 13th Tehran international trade fair.

Confers With Energy Minister

LD232034 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—Visiting Romanian Minister of Foreign Trade and International cooperation Ilie Vaduva conferred with head of Ministry of Energy Abdol Hasan Khamushi on Tehran-Bucharest technical cooperation, here Wednesday.

The two sides studied cooperation in water and power industries, especially acceleration of projects for expansion of energy transfer lines in western and northwestern Iran.

Views were also exchanged on execution of a letter of understanding inked between the Islamic Republic and Romania concerning construction of a dam in Saveh, central province, using Romanian equipment and machinery.

Vaduva arrived here Tuesday at the head of a delegation to hold talks with Iranian officials.

Meets Central Bank Governor

LD232337 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] The Romanian foreign trade minister this afternoon met with Qasemi the governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this meeting, mutual trade and financial relations were discussed and the Romanian foreign trade minister emphasized that his country's government is keen to expand these types of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Cited on Trade Before Departure

NC240830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Romanian Foreign Trade Minister Ilie Vaduva concluded his visit to Iran and departed for Romania last night. Prior to his departure he granted an exclusive interview to our correspondent about his visit to the 13th Tehran International Trade Fair. He said: At the heavy machinery pavilion, I was able to see firsthand the Islamic Republic of Iran's dazzling progress in industrial and technical fields, and I hope that this visit will provide a valuable basis for expanding future cooperation between our countries.

He stressed the mutual desire to expand relations and described his talks with our ministers as positive, noting that important progress has been made in commercial and economic exchanges between Iran and Romania. Our two countries have potential that can provide a valuable basis for future reciprocal ties.

Our Commerce Minister 'Abedi-Ja'fari also spoke with our correspondent, commenting on the outcome of the Romanian foreign trade minister's visit.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Minister 'Abedi-Ja'fari, could you tell us about the results of your 2-day talks with the Romanian foreign trade minister and what effect this visit will have on increased bilateral exchanges?

['Abedi-Ja'fari] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In addition to the Romanian foreign minister's visit to the 13th Tehran International Trade Fair, at my invitation, he also held talks with us, with esteemed Plan and Budget Minister Zanjani, and with other colleagues. An agreement signed earlier between him and Minister Zanjani and the topics involved were reviewed. In the first 5 months of the current year, we sold nearly $80 million worth of oil to Romania and imported $76 million in goods. A total of approximately $400 million in goods and oil were exchanged in the past year between our country and Romania. [end recording]

Bulgarian Minister Concludes Visit 23 Sep

LD231340 Tehran IRNA in English 1333 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—Visiting Bulgarian Transportation Minister Vasil Tsanov left here for Sofia Wednesday, concluding a week-long visit and talks with Iranian officials on ways to expand bilateral cooperation.

Tsanov was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Seyyed Kya.

A draft letter of understanding was concluded between Iran and Bulgaria during Tsanov's last round of talks with Seyyed Kya.

Turkish Commerce Minister Departs 23 Sep

LD231253 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Cahit Aral, the Turkish minister of industries and commerce, left Tehran this morning at the end of his 5-day official visit. During his stay in Tehran, in addition to visiting Tehran's 13th international fair, he met and discussed some issues of interest to both countries with the prime minister and other ministers. Before returning to Turkey, Mr Aral took part in an exclusive interview with a Central News Unit correspondent. Referring to his visit to five industrial factories in Tabriz and Isfahan, he said: In comparison with my previous visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979, Iran has made considerable industrial and technical progress, and in view of the existing war conditions, there is very good industrial activity.

Then, referring to the desire of the young officials and engineers in running the factories, he expressed his hope that the activity of the industrial sector of the country, which augurs well for the future, will continue.

During the departure of the Turkish minister, Behzad Nabavi, minister of heavy industries, also took part in an interview with the correspondent of the Central News Unit, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Nabavi, please tell us to what extent the talks that you have had with your Turkish counterpart have been successful in implementing the protocol signed between the two countries.

[Nabavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We had some discussions on the methods of the implementation of the note of understanding of 1987. [passage indistinct] We discussed with him some cases where there have been some difficulties in the implementation of the protocol, and he gave us a promise of assistance and cooperation, including the export of oil whose volume is very different from the levels foreseen in the note of understanding. There should be greater activity in this field. There were certain other such issues and he promised that he would follow them up on behalf of his country.

[Correspondent] Mr Nabavi, do you think that everything anticipated in the note of understanding will be accomplished?

[Nabavi] I think that it will be accomplished by about 80 or 90 percent. [end recording]

Trade Talks Held With Polish Delegation

LD241045 Tehran IRNA in English 0828 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24 IRNA—The visiting Polish Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Janusz Balewski and his accompanying delegation met with deputy mines and metals minister and head of the national steel company, Mohammad Hoseyn Moqimi here Wednesday.

During the meeting, they discussed steel industries and relevant projects as well as issues of mutual interest.

Balewski expressing hope that bilateral relations would further expand announced his country's readiness to cooperate in steel and other industries with Iran.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Iraqi Targets Shelled

LD231026 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Sept. 23, IRNA—Iraqi economic, industrial and military installations in Umm Qasr, Basra and Zubayr, southern Iraq, came under Iranian heavy artillery fire fo 24 hours from 16:00 hours (12:30 GMT) Tuesday. An informed military source said here today that the shelling was in retaliation for Monday Iraqi air attacks on the town of Azna, Lorestan Province, where 21 civilians were martyred and 196 others injured.

The Iranian shelling heavily damaged a paper factory, oil installations of Zubayr, military training center of Muhammad al-Qasim fifth division, Umm Qasr naval base, Al-Harithah power station, Umm Qasr match producing factory and Al-'Amayah and Al Bakr jetties.

Bodies of 21 martyrs of Azna bombardment, including five women and a number of children, were buried in a special ceremony Wednesday which was attended by a large group of the inhabitants of the town who chanted "War, war, till victory".

Communique No 2,969

LD241557 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—Iranian long-range artillery fire heavily shelled eco-military centers in the eastern Iraqi towns of Banmil, Zurbatiyah, Badrah and Naft Khaneh Wednesday in retaliation for Iraqi bombing of Iran's industrial-labor quarters yesterday in which seven civilians were martyred and wounded.

Announcing the above, the 2969th Joint Staff communique reported here Thursday that heavy Iranian coastal artillery fire on Iraq's al-'Amayah oil platform and three watchtowers yesterday inflicted substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and a number of enemy gun emplacements and observation posts, two munitions dumps, two vehicles, a machine-gun and an anti-aircraft gun were destroyed in parts of the battlefields during artillery duels with Iranian forces Wednesday.

Iranian gendarmerie forces continued their battle with Iraqi troops in parts of the southern sector yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and

setting ablaze 10 gun emplacements and observation posts as well as a vehicle of theirs.

An Iraqi officer and a soldier surrendered themselves to Iranian forces in a southern theater and sought asylum over the past two days.

Movement of Iraqi vehicle columns was checked in Panjwin, Shanadari, Sayyid Sadiq and Mehran, northwestern and western fronts, yesterday by heavy Iranian artillery fire.

An Iraqi patrol convoy, attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in the northwestern theater of Sayyid Sadiq Tuesday night, was forced to flee by the timely reaction of Iran's Muslim combatants, concluded the communique.

Iraq Bombs Khuzestan Industrial Units

LD241628 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes bombed two industrial units in Khuzestan Province at noon Thursday. The two industrial units suffered partial damage in the Iraqi bombardment.

Shelling of Residential Areas Denied

LD241709 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—A War Information headquarters (WIH) spokesman Thursday refuted Iraqi claim that Iranian combatants shelled residential regions of the southern Iraqi port city of Basra during Wednesday and Thursday.

The spokesman, terming the claims as 'pure lies', said Muslim combatants of Iran retaliated solely on Iraqi economic and military installations around Basra for Iraqi attacks on Iranian residential and economic centers over the past two days.

The Muslim combatants did not shell any Iraqi economic installation inside the Iraqi city of Basra, he stressed.

The spokesman also denied that Iran attacked civilian center in Badrah town, southern Iraq.

Attack on Turkish Village Condemned

LD241749 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has condemned the attack by Iraqi aircraft on a border village in Turkey. The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated: Today, it is clear to everyone that the Iraqi regime has a warmongering mentality and does not recognize any limits or borders to its aggressive acts. He said: Iraq's policy is to fan the flames of war by conducting aggression against other countries. The spokesman, referring to the cooperation between Iran and Turkey on bilateral issues, remarked: We condemn this aggression by the Iraqi regime and declare our sympathies with the people of Turkey and those who have suffered this loss.

Pakistan

Junejo Addresses UN General Assembly 24 Sep

BK250625 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo told the UN General Assembly that the Afghan problem is caused by the presence of foreign forces there, and that if they were to leave Afghanistan, an agreement on its future government would be speedily achieved. A short time frame for the Soviet withdrawal would encourage the Afghan people to reach an agreement on what type of government they want for themselves. Addressing the UN General Assembly last night, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said Pakistan would welcome a return to normalcy in Afghanistan under any political arrangement acceptable to the Afghan people, including the 5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran who constitute one-third of the population of Afghanistan.

The prime minister added that a comprehensive settlement being initiated through the Geneva process is virtually complete, except for a withdrawal of Soviet forces time frame. When a political settlement is reached through the Geneva process, the Soviet forces should leave Afghanistan immediately. The prime minister said that he was greatly disappointed with the recent round of indirect talks in Geneva. Representatives of the Kabul regime were intransigent on an unjust and lengthy time frame for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan; therefore, an outcome was not achieved at the talks. Kabul's initiative for the recent round of Geneva talks on the Afghanistan problem was not motivated by a desire to reach a settlement; its eyes were fixed on the UN General Assembly session. The prime minister expressed confidence that the General Assembly would reconfirm its principled position on the issue. He stated that contrary to our expectations and aspirations, military activities in Afghanistan have intensified and the influx of refugees to Pakistan from Afghanistan continues.

The prime minister pointed out that Pakistan has been subjected to repeated aerial attacks and a systematic campaign of terrorist bombings in the crowded markets of its cities. He warned that while Pakistan is most anxious to achieve a political settlement, it would not falter in its resolve nor submit to pressure. Despite differences on the Afghanistan problem, the prime minister asserted that his government wants to promote friendly relations and cooperation with the Soviet Union. He appealed to the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, to help resolve the tragic situation in Afghanistan on the basis of justice and equality.

Concerning Pakistan's relations with other countries in South Asia, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said that by setting up SAARC, we have accepted the importance of

regional cooperation. He expressed the hope that in the near future we will jointly endeavor to create mutual trust, promote regional security, and reduce arms expenditures on the basis of principles laid down by the SAARC.

The prime minister affirmed that Pakistan desires peaceful and cooperative relations with India and looks forward to an early resumption of talks with that country. He added that Pakistan remains committed to a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir question in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, which will usher in a new era of complete normalization and durable peace as envisaged in the Simla agreement.

The prime minister expressed our concern regarding nuclear weapons in the South Asian region where one country has already demonstrated nuclear capability. Pakistan does not have nuclear capability, nor does it have any desire to develop nuclear weapons. Pakistan does not wish to conduct a nuclear explosion. Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said a bilateral test ban agreement between Pakistan and India will assure each other and the world that neither country has any intention of pursuing the nuclear weapon option.

The prime minister said Pakistan has proposed several modalities for nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia, including one in which both India and Pakistan would simultaneously sign an agreement on nonproliferation; comprehensive IAEA safeguards; a mutual inspection of each other's nuclear facilities; a joint declaration renouncing nuclear weapons; and the creation of a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia. Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo proposed that a conference under UN auspices be convened, as soon as possible, to consider nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia in which countries from the region, and other interested third countries, may participate.

Regarding the Gulf war, the prime minister pointed out that when it began, Pakistan had made sustained efforts to bring it to an end. Whenever the Gulf war intensified, Pakistan encouraged the concerned parties not to give up the path of (?restraint). He said that the UN Security Council resolution on the subject can greatly contribute to ending this war and easing current tension. Pakistan is willing to extend all possible assistance and cooperation in this connection.

With regard to the Middle East, the prime minister expressed the hope that a consensus will be reached soon on convening an international conference, in which the PLO could participate on an equal footing as the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people, to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problems.

The prime minister, in his remarks about South Africa, said that Pakistan will continue to support the African people until the abominable and ignominious regime of racial discrimination is eliminated and the people's freedom from oppression and racial discrimination is achieved. He prayed for early independence for Namibia.

Concerning domestic affairs, the prime minister said his government is not only determined to strengthen the democratic process, but it is also sincerely trying to free the Pakistani people from hunger and want. He added that he initiated a 5-point socioeconomic reform under which bold and firm decisions were taken to improve the literacy rate, provide housing to the homeless, and eliminate imbalance, backwardness, and poverty. He expressed the hope that the main objectives of this program will be achieved within the next 3 years.

Sri Lanka

Parliament Approves Extension of Emergency

BK250619 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0600 GMT 25 Sep 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 25 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The Sri Lanka parliament passed the resolution to extend the emergency for a month by 110 votes to 9.

Indian Force Begins Seizing Tamil Groups' Arms

BK221614 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Text] The Indian peacekeeping force has now begun to seize unsurrendered arms from the Tamil groups in the northern and eastern regions. Diplomatic sources told *Lanka Puwath* that it had already seized a number of weapons during the past few days, and when necessary, force will be used to conduct the operation.

LTTE Demonstration Results in 1 Dead, 21 Wounded

BK241509 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1415 GMT 24 Sep 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 24 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The Indian peace keeping force camp at Mannar was yesterday encroached upon by the LTTE to stage a mass demonstration inside the establishment, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*. They said the Indian peace keeping force had warned the demonstrators several times and drawn a demarcation line from which the LTTE led mob was not to proceed.

However, the mob had flouted the warnings and as a result a man named Yogaratnam was killed while 21 others were wounded.